

## Senor Suárez resigns as Prime Minister of Spain

Senor Adolfo Suárez, Prime Minister of Spain for the past four and a half years, resigned yesterday in the face of growing opposition from right-wing factions within his own party. His critics had alleged that his style of government had recently become increasingly indecisive.

## Forced out by rebels in his own party

From Richard Wigg Madrid, Jan 29

Senor Adolfo Suárez, Spain's Prime Minister for the past four years and a half, resigned a Cabinet meeting this afternoon in the face of mounting opposition from within his own party.

His resignation had earlier been tendered to King Juan Carlos, who under the 1978 constitution will propose a successor to Parliament after party consultations.

Senor Suárez, who is 48 and has led the country through the difficult transition from the death of General Franco to democratic rule, was today to have faced a conference of his party, the Centre Democrat Union (UCD), at which his opponents from the Christian Democrat and other liberal factions had planned a challenge to his leadership.

The conference, only the second in the history of the UCD, which is a loose coalition of forces Senor Suárez formed and his own personality and subsequently led to victory in the general elections in 1977, was to have been held in Majorca. But Senor Suárez postponed the conference because of a national air traffic controllers' strike.

It had been thought here, however, that Senor Suárez had had upon this industrial strike in order to postpone a vote confrontation with his party critics.

His critics alleged that the Prime Minister's once successful image had been badly damaged in the public eye because of an indecisive and ineffective style of governing over the last two years. They also felt that a party already without a majority in the Cortes (Parliament) would lose the next general election, scheduled for 1983, probably to the Socialist Party.

After a meeting of the UCD national executive, Senor Suárez resigned from the party presidency. As his opponents do not muster a majority in the parliamentary party there was speculation this evening that Senor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo, the second Deputy Prime Minister in charge of economic affairs, would be a possible choice as successor.

The first Deputy Prime Minister is General Manuel Suarez Villa and as a military man has few political prospects.

Speaking on television tonight, Senor Suárez denounced what he called systematic personal attacks on figures in high public office, evidently referring to critics in his own party. He appealed to the nation to

face the change of premiership calmly and in a spirit of loyalty to Spain's democratic institutions and to the crown.

Senor Suárez said that he was not feeling tired or unable to face future tasks.

"It might not appear comprehensible at first sight, but I believe it is what my country requires at this time. I am going because words do not appear sufficient and it is necessary to demonstrate, with acts, who we are and what we want," he said.

He denied his critics' charge that he had been determined to stay in power at all costs.

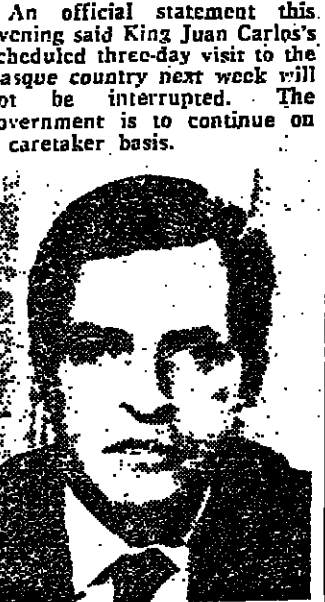
Senor Manuel Fraga Iribarne, leader of the right-wing Popular Alliance, tonight proposed a coalition of "like-minded parties" to provide a strong governing majority with which to fight the next general election.

The constitution lays down that after consultations with the parliamentary parties the politician whom the King then chooses should present a majority in the lower house of the Cortes, which has 356 members.

The Suárez Government obtained its last vote of confidence, amid growing difficulties, in September, when the 165 UCD MPs obtained the support of allied regional parties in the Basque country and Catalonia to beat the combined Socialist and Communist opposition by a total of 180 votes to 164.

A leading MP opposed to Senor Suárez said after the Prime Minister's resignation: "The UCD now has a chance of rejuvenation."

An official statement this evening said King Juan Carlos scheduled three-day visit to the Basque country next week will not be interrupted. The government is to continue on a caretaker basis.



Senor Suárez speaking on television last night.

## Thatcher call to widen US-Europe cooperation

By Fred Emery Political Editor

Increased cooperation "outside Europe" must figure prominently in United States-European thinking, Margaret Thatcher said last night.

In a speech to the annual Pilgrims' dinner, emphasizing the need for the Atlantic alliance to become "still more purposeful and resolute", the Prime Minister did not expand on the future cooperation beyond Europe. But the recent examples she chose to give of European contributions, while mentioning their "trade, their aid, and their long experience" were, in the main, military.

The British were playing "a vital part" in the formation of the Zimbabwe Army. France had "responded to requests" from a number of African states, a euphemism for sending in troops. And Britain and France had joined with the United States Navy to ensure freedom of passage through the Straits of Hormuz.

In speaking of the West's overriding interest in "promoting a peaceful evolution in the Third World and in repelling Soviet efforts to increase their influence", Mrs Thatcher came to the joint diplomatic effort in seeking "internationally recognized independence" for Namibia, in which Britain, France and West Germany have joined the United States and Canada.

The speech, the first of three the Prime Minister is making over the next month to identify Britain's eagerness to help President Reagan realize the alliance was noticeably tough and enthusiastic. "We need to say more clearly: 'We are with you,'" she said to the Americans.

"Of course we remain ready to respond to evidence of a real Soviet interest in a real Soviet interest in a real Soviet interest. But at present I see none."

President Reagan and his administration have understood the challenge and the need for leadership. They are responding. We must in Europe show that we understand the challenge.

Mrs Thatcher offered three steps to revitalization. The first was to stand by the United States. "Seabacks for them are seabacks for us," she said. "We must offer greater recognition of the extent of the American effort which guarantees our freedom."

Second, Europe must make sure it was doing all it could in its own defence.

Third, both the United States and Europe must ensure that policy coordination arrangements were "kept in perfect working order," not, she noted, as when Afghanistan was invaded.

That lesson must be heeded, especially when the whole of Europe is nursing Poland with anxiety.

Mrs Thatcher also went out of her way to assure Americans that Britain's membership of the EEC could not, and would not, lessen Anglo-American friendship. Nor would closer cooperation within the EEC threaten the links between the United States and other Europeans.

A stronger, more self-confident Europe, pursuing more coherent policies will produce a greater area of stability for democracy."

The second and third speeches in the Prime Minister's "trilogy" will be delivered in Washington and New York during an American visit from February 25-28.

Reagan press conference, page 6



Children at the Westway gypsies' site in London over which protests are planned because of conditions there. Report, page 3.

## Shadow Cabinet to seek reversal of leadership vote decision

By Michael Hatfield Political Reporter

Mr Michael Foot, leader of the Labour Party, told Labour backbenchers last night that the Shadow Cabinet was determined to fight to reverse the special conference decision which gave the party a 40 per cent stake in electing the leader.

In a prepared statement, Mr Foot said that the Shadow Cabinet believed that the decision should be changed. It had agreed that a resolution to this effect should be presented to a meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party at an early date.

The discussions he had heard in the parliamentary party and among trade unionists indicated that the outcome was "not regarded as satisfactory for the future health of the party."

"I doubt whether the bulk of the trade unions want to have the large 40 per cent share which they have been accorded. Indeed the trade union vote, including those not cast last Saturday, reveal the possible truth of this claim. I doubt whether the bulk of constituency parties approve."

The outcome had been evidently and naturally objectionable to the parliamentary party and "it overturns the advice which we offered as a result of the votes cast at our parliamentary party meetings."

When he wound up the conference Mr Foot said he accepted the decision. He said: "I accept that vote, and I hope the whole party without

regard to the right, left or centre will accept the vote as well."

His latest statement was greeted without challenge and came at a time of desperation among many Labour backbenchers at the direction of the party, and of demands that there should be firmer leadership.

Mr Foot's statement followed a declaration earlier in the day by 150 Labour backbenchers, covering the political spectrum inside the parliamentary party, that they all disagreed with the formula adopted by the conference.

The coming together of the left, right and centre inside the parliamentary party in their declaration had the support of Mr Foot and Mr Healey, the deputy leader.

It said that the formula which had been approved had "inherent flaws" which were demonstrated "by the manner in which the party arrived at and repudiated the expressed wishes of the leader of the party."

"All of us agree with Michael Foot that conference has made mistakes in the past and that such mistakes can be rectified. All of us agree that the decision at Wembley was such a mistake and should be rectified at the earliest opportunity."

Mr Foot said that he was convinced that this was the right course in the interests

## Datsun British plant may get state to pay half its cost

By Peter Hill and Edward Townsend

Nissan, Japan's second largest motor corporation, will decide early in June where to establish its planned 2,000 car manufacturing plant in Britain. It will eventually employ nearly 4,500 workers.

The company has begun a feasibility study which should be completed in four months. As foretold in *The Times*, the Government announced yesterday that it endorsed Nissan's proposals.

The announcement of the venture was made by Mr Norman Tebbit, newly-appointed Minister of State for Industry, only days after final government approval was given to inject a further £990m into British Leyland over the next two years.

If, as seems almost certain, the Japanese company, which makes Datsun vehicles, goes ahead with its plans to locate the new facility in one of the assisted areas of Britain, it will qualify for government financial incentives of up to a half of the total cost.

Ministers anxious to attract prestige foreign investment to alleviate the growing unemployment caused by the rundown in traditional manufacturing regions, see in the Nissan plan an injection of positive hope into the beleaguered British motor industry and its suppliers.

Nissan plans an 800-acre site, more than double the size of BL's Longbridge factory in Birmingham, which by 1986 could be producing 200,000 cars a year.

Competition for the location of the Japanese company's plant will be intense, with especially strong representations expected from South Wales, which has become the home for a number

of British subsidiaries of Japanese companies.

Its closeness to port and other communication facilities and its proximity to the large steel plants of Port Talbot and Llanwern, which provide the strip steel for the motor industry, will be seen as enhancing the region's chances.

The effects will be much more widespread. The Nissan venture could help to safeguard up to 30,000 jobs in component-supplying companies.

Mr Masataka Okuma, executive vice-president of Nissan's export and overseas operations, said at a London press conference last night that initially British companies would be supplying 60 per cent of the value of materials and components, rising to 80 per cent by 1986.

Mr Tebbit's statement received a generally favourable reaction from MPs. That reaction was mirrored in large measure by Sir Bernard Scott, president of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.

He said: "Whatever the detail of any proposed arrangement, its main objective must be to decrease imports and increase exports of both vehicles and components and thus safeguard employment."

"Provided some major requirements are met new investment is to be welcomed, particularly bearing in mind that were Britain to block such investment, it is highly likely that it would be made in another EEC country."

Sir Bernard, who next week will be meeting his society's Japanese counterparts in Lisbon to discuss informally the continuance of existing voluntary restraint by Japanese car manufacturers to Britain, said that

Continued on page 2, col 4

## Ecuador and Peru in clash after oil find

Quito, Jan 29.—Ecuador was on a war footing today after incidents on its frontier with Peru in which each side accused the other of aggression. Both countries mobilized their troops.

Hospitals in Quito were evacuated to make room for wounded troops after clashes at the border post of Paquisha, in which two Peruvian helicopters are reported to have been shot down. Another border incident occurred last week.

The heightened tension was thought to be linked with the discovery of oil by both countries in Amazonian forest land. Diplomatic sources here said that Ecuador had sent large reinforcements to its southern border where an armoured brigade equipped with French-produced AMX 13 tanks was already deployed.

The permanent council of the Organization of American States in Washington today called on Ecuador and Peru to accept the creation of a commission to investigate the border clashes. Agency France-Press and AP.

Peru's austerity, page 6

## Ticker-tape welcome suffers from technology

From Michael Leppman New York, Jan 29

New York's distinctive way of honouring national heroes is to have them drive up Broadway and then through the streets all over them. Tomorrow more than 20 of the 52 former hostages in Iran will submit themselves to that bizarre custom.

Yet the ticker-tape parade, which evolved in the 1920s, is becoming older and harder to stage, because of the influx of new technology in the financial district.

More than 100 miles of yellow and white tape has had to be ordered for the parade from a firm in Connecticut because it is now a rare commodity in commercial houses.

The old "tickers"—machines which would print stock prices and other financial news on rolls of paper—have been replaced by screen terminals on which the information is flashed. To hurl a video screen from the high windows of a skyscraper would be somewhat dangerous and extravagant.

In recent parades, office workers have thrown file cards, lavatory paper and confetti to make up for the shortage of ticker-tape. But the cards fall to the ground too fast and modern lavatory paper is too light to be seen. The parade does like to see the tape drift down from the building at a steady but modest pace, before enveloping the convoy of motor cars. Ticker tape does this ideally.

The same old-fashioned is as unhelpful as modern technology. Many new office towers are completely airconditioned and their windows cannot be opened. Waving rolls of paper behind plate glass is not at all the same thing.

The first large ticker-tape parade was for Charles Lindbergh, the flying hero, in 1927. Since then there have been 35, their size gauged by the weight of the rubbish collected by the street cleaners afterwards.

This year's ticker-tape parade was in 1945 celebrating the victory over Japan. This produced 5,438 tons of rubbish. Second was the one given for John Glenn, the astronaut, in 1961, with 3,474 tons.

When the New York Mets won the world series at baseball in 1969, they provoked 1,255 tons of rubbish, while the city's other baseball team, the Yankees, could muster only 375 tons in 1976—victims of the new technology.

The most recent ticker-tape parade was for the Pope in 1979. He inspired only 43 tons. Not everyone here is enthusiastic about tomorrow's parade, which will run from the southern tip of Manhattan to City Hall. *New York Times*, in a sniffy leading article yesterday, said the idea was "redundant" and that the former hostages should now be allowed to go home quietly with their families.

Yet the parade is a tradition of Mr Edward Koch, the Mayor of New York, and more than 20 have done so. Apart from the parade, they are being given free lodging at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, free tickets to Broadway shows, free meals, and numerous gifts from local businessmen.

Moscow explains, page 6

## Redundancy fund to get cash boost

By Paul Routledge Labour Editor

The unemployment crisis has prompted the Government to introduce emergency legislation to forestall bankruptcy in the fund's redundancy payments and to increase the limit of £40m to a sum up to four times that figure.

Legislation has been presented over the past few months to cope with the impact of rising unemployment and those cuts have coincided with crisis in the fund.

On present patterns, the Government spends £20m a month in redundancy payments. The legislation being tabled today envisages continuation of compensation payments to redundant workers on a scale that is at least twice the Government's current level.

A political dispute is expected over the scale of the Government's involvement in redundancy payments and the sudden shift appearing in the fund. Labour MPs last night were asking how to reconcile the surplus of £102m recorded by the fund last year with the likely shortfall of many millions of pounds this year.

Three options were available to the Government. The first would involve an increase in employers' national insurance contributions and the second would mean a reduction in the rebate payable to companies responsible for paying redundancy payments.

The third would be to increase the fund's borrowing limit and that is the option that presently has been chosen.

## 96 men resume 'dirty' protest

Any remaining hopes of an early settlement of the Northern Ireland were destroyed when the 96 Republican prisoners in the Maze prison who smashed furniture in their cells on Tuesday resumed their "dirty" protest. They had been moved to unfurnished cells after their action on Tuesday.

The Northern Ireland Office is waiting to see if the men will stage a new hunger strike, as they apparently have threatened to do over conditions at the prison.

## Yamani call to West

The West will have to "correct the damage done so far" in the Middle East, Shaikh Zaki Yamani, the Saudi Arabian Oil Minister, said. The Saudis hoped that the West would do what is needed in order to bring about a peaceful settlement in the area," he said.

## Airfix owes £15m

Airfix Industries, makers of Dinky Toys and Meccano, has collapsed owing £15m to bank creditors. A scheme for financial reconstruction was rejected by the 15 banks, led by the National Westminster, which is owed £8m. Receivers have been called in.

## Big cuts expected for higher education

Confidential Government plans for further limits on local authority spending on education over the next three years envisage big cuts in higher education in the maintained sector, but there will be little change in teacher numbers beyond those already planned.

## Mr Waring to retire

Mr Eddie Waring, the BBC rugby league commentator, is to retire. He began his television commentary on the sport in 1952, on the international between Great Britain and New Zealand. Mr Waring is to continue as the BBC's rugby league adviser with priority in helping to find his successor.

## Travel in America: An eight-page Special Report describes places to see, things to do, ways to go

Classified advertisements: Personal, pages 24, 26; Appointments, 24; Car buyers' guide, 24; Property, 11.

## Guerrilla bases in Lebanon raided by Israeli planes

From Moshe Brilliant Tel Aviv, Jan 29

Israeli aircraft attacked Palestinian guerrilla concentrations in southern Lebanon this afternoon in the first raid across the border since December 31 when Syrian fighter aircraft unexpectedly took to the air against the Israeli attackers.

In that case, two MIG 21 interceptors were shot down in air battles. The renewal of Israeli air strikes came after the shelling last night of Krayat Shimon, a village where seven Israeli soldiers and four children were injured. Several buildings in that town and in Metulha were destroyed.

The shells, Katyusha rockets, came from the area of Nabatieh and Israeli artillery responded early today.

The Nabatieh area was hit in the air raid. Other targets included bases south of Sidon, east of Tyre and south of the Zahlan estuary.

Military sources said these were bases of El Fatah Palestinian guerrillas and of the pro-Israeli Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Syrian interceptors did not appear today, but the Israeli raiders encountered some anti-aircraft artillery fire. All aircraft returned safely after scoring "accurate hits," it was officially stated.

Refugee camps: Israeli aircraft bombed Palestinian refugee camps over a wide area of southern Lebanon today (Reuters reports from Sidon).

Reports said that at least 10 people were killed and many were wounded by successive bombing raids on Sidon. The first strike caused heavy damage to buildings to the south and south-east of the city.

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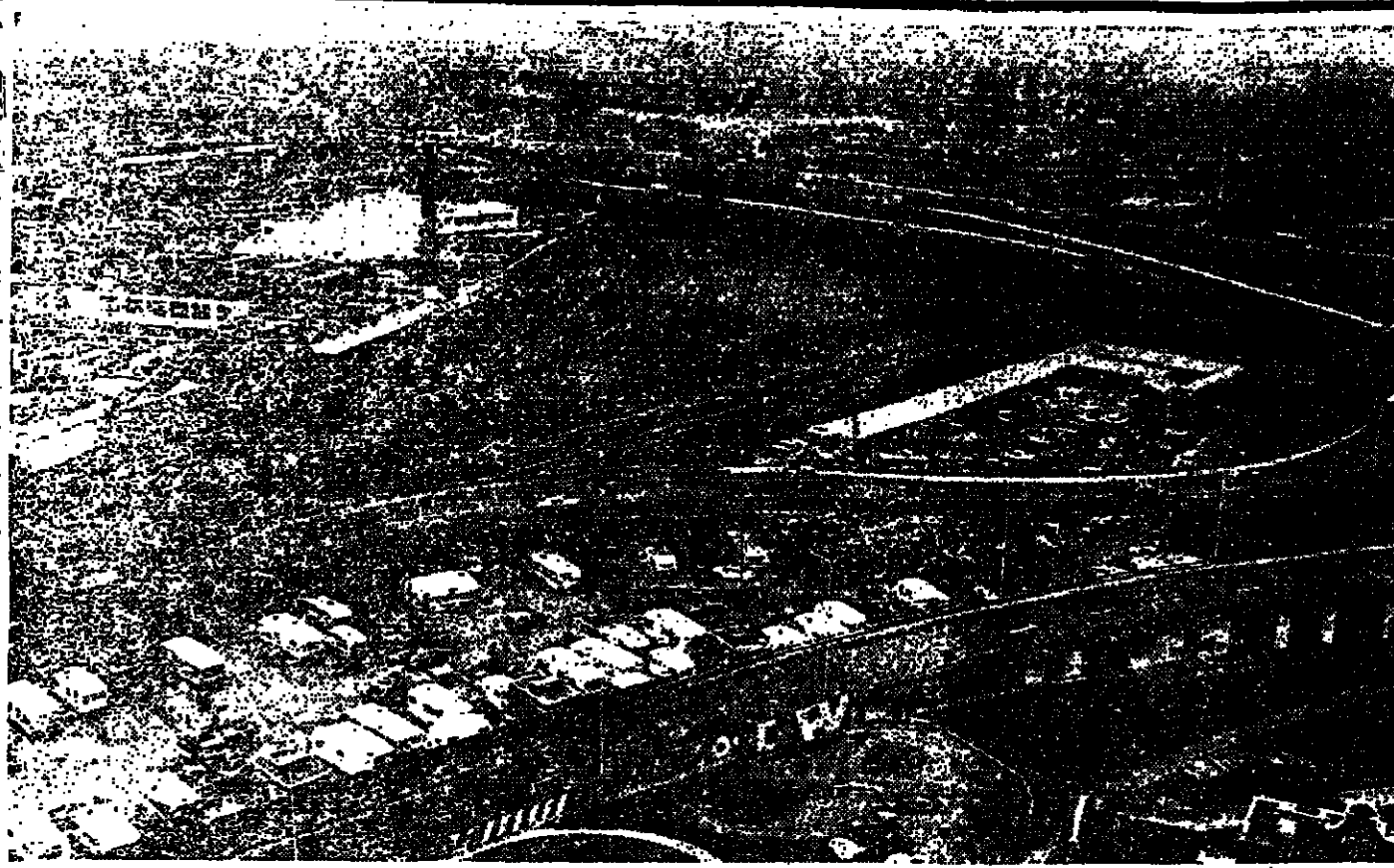
INSTALLATIONS IN ENGLAND, WALES, SCOTLAND AND IRELAND. USE OF MAP AND USE OF RIGHT







## HOME NEWS



Flyovers of the two motorway access roads sweep round the caravans of the Westway gypsies' site.

Photograph by Harry Kerr

## Caravans nestle between motorway access roads and rubbish tip

## Health challenge over Westway gypsies' camp

By David Nicholson-Lord

Mrs Margaret Jones pointed through the window of her small, spruce kept caravan yesterday to the spot where last November a lorry plummeted 40ft from the motorway access road overhead, demolishing a wall, killing its driver and narrowly missing her two nieces, aged eight and twelve.

"They were this far away from it," she said, holding her hands a foot apart. "They thought it was a bit of a giggle at first but they stopped laughing when they saw the driver carried away."

To Mrs Jones and fellow residents on the Westway gypsies' site, in North Kensington, London, the accident served as a final and damning illustration of the dangers to which they are exposed. The site, she says with a touch of sarcasm, is "unfit for human consumption".

Later this year that opinion is expected to be tested by two legal actions brought on the residents' behalf by staff at the North Kensington law centre. Both are being seen as providing important precedents for councils' siting and management of gypsy sites.

Staff at the centre plan to prosecute Hammersmith council which runs the site jointly with Kensington and Chelsea council, on public health grounds. They will ask the Department of the Environment to instruct the council to take action but failing that, they intend to launch what is believed to be the first action in the High Court to force the councils to discharge their statutory duties under the Caravan Sites Act, 1968.

Among matters such an action is likely to clarify is the definition of an adequate site. There is widespread resentment

among Britain's estimated 9,000 gypsy families about the location of sites "next to graveyards, rubbish-tips and sewage farms", in the words of Mr James Mercer, one of two British representatives on the International Romany Committee.

The Westway site is described by Mr Mercer as among the worst he has seen. It is sandwiched between two raised motorway access roads and bordered by a car-breakers' yard, an illegal rubbish-tip and a railway line, used by about 10 trains an hour during the day.

Tests have revealed blood-lead levels in children on the site of as much as twice the normal and increasing with length of stay. There is "usually heavy" lead contamination in camp site dust, according to standards used by the Greater London Council.

Noise levels would qualify residents for double-glazing if they were council tenants, law centre staff say.

Residents also complain that rats regularly block drains and that council rubbish removal services are inadequate. Hammersmith council, while admitting that the site is far from ideal, blames a minority of the travellers for illegal tipping and says that the 40,000 annual cost of accommodating "in existing designated sites. Asked why she does not leave, Mrs Jones, a widow with 19 grandchildren, replies: "There is no room anywhere else."

It is estimated that about three-quarters of Britain's gypsy families could not be accommodated in existing designated sites. Asked why she does not leave, Mrs Jones, a widow with 19 grandchildren, replies: "There is no room anywhere else."

The committee recommended that the sale of pornographic magazines, and the viewing of pornographic films, should be permitted only in strictly controlled circumstances which ensured that members of the public were not subjected to offensive displays.

## Select committee and minister clash on sick pay proposals

By Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent

Government proposals to transfer responsibility for sick pay from national insurance to employers were pronounced seriously defective yesterday by the Commons Select Committee on Social Services. Their report brought an immediate condemnation from Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services.

The committee made it clear yesterday, both in their report and at a press conference in the Commons, that their doubts about the proposals, on which a Bill is imminent, were based on the details of the scheme rather than the basic principles.

Mrs Renée Short, chairman of the committee, said that there had not been time to consider whether the idea of transferring responsibility was sound.

Mr Jenkin issued a statement saying: "The most that can be said for this report is that the House will wish to note the issues it raises when it comes to debate the Bill in a few weeks' time."

"I also expect the House will want to consider whether off-the-cuff opinion, not founded on any evidence heard by a committee, is the best way of providing an independent par-

liamentary overview by select committee."

Mr Jenkin has now criticized three out of four of the committee's reports with varying degrees of hostility. He seriously questioned the committee's conclusions in its report on perinatal mortality about the number of avoidable deaths and children born handicapped, and strongly rejected its conclusion that the Government did not know the effects of its proposals to cut expenditure on social services and social security.

His antipathy towards the committee's reports, each of which has been unanimous, is bound to raise questions about the government response to select committee work.

Before she was aware of Mr Jenkin's response, Mrs Short stated that he should be grateful for the amount of work the committee had been able to do in the short time available. If their proposals were accepted, the committee would have saved him "an awful lot of odium and protests" from outside.

The committee spent about two months considering the government proposals to transfer responsibility for the first eight weeks of sickness to employers in return for reductions in their national insurance contributions. They took no direct evidence.

The committee concluded that the proposals had two main defects. They would place further burdens on employers, particularly small firms, without adequate compensation. They would involve greater losses for families than for single or childless couples. "A shift in public policy which is entirely in the wrong direction".

The report also questioned the administrative savings claimed by the Government, because they amounted to a transfer from the public to the private sector. The report called for effective monitoring of any real savings achieved.

The committee also recommended that if the scheme were to go ahead employers should be responsible for the first 28 weeks of sickness rather than the first eight.

Publication of the report brought an immediate demand from the National Federation of Self Employed and Small Businesses that the Government abandon its proposals.

The British Institute of Management last night welcomed the report and called on the Government to reconsider their "ill thought out proposals".

The Government's Proposals for Income During Initial Sickness, Commons Paper 113 (Stationery Office).

Leading article, page 15

## Early action by Government on obscenity law ruled out

By Our Legal Correspondent

Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, has said that there is no possibility of government legislation in this parliamentary session on the recommendations of the Williams committee on obscenity and film censorship.

Speaking last week to members of the National Campaign for the Reform of the Obscene Publications Act, he did not indicate what he thought about the report. The campaign has expressed its disappointment and concern that the Government has apparently "ducked the issue".

The committee recommended

that the sale of pornographic magazines, and the viewing of pornographic films, should be permitted only in strictly controlled circumstances which ensured that members of the public were not subjected to offensive displays.

It also called for the repeal of obscenity laws covering the printed word, and the abolition of the "artistic or literary merit" defence available under the present law.

The second reading of the private member's Bill aimed at making illegal public indecent displays, proposed by Mr Timothy Sainsbury, Conservative MP for Hove, is due in the Commons today.

## Father tells of ban on 'Moonie' girls

The father of Judy and Jane Salter, who are members of the Unification Church (the Moonies) said yesterday that he had not allowed his daughters to spend a Christmas with the family in case they tempted two young relatives into the sect.

Mr Robert Salter, of Fairdene Road, Coudon, London, told Mr Justice Cohn and a jury in the High Court that he did not trust the two girls to join the family for Christmas in 1978. "We did not trust them to be in close contact with young people because they could influence them and get them into the Moonies", he said.

Mr Salter added that if his daughters were ill or in dire need, obviously they would be allowed home, but apart from that they were not.

He was giving evidence on the sixtieth day of the libel action by Mr Dennis Orme, United Kingdom leader of the Unification Church, against Associated Newspapers. Mr Orme claims he was libelled in a Daily Mail article in May, 1978, which alleged that the Moonies brain-washed converts and broke up families. Libel is denied.

The hearing continues today.



Hugh MacDiarmid: Memorial sculpture competition.

## Monument to the poet of Langholm

From Ronald Faux, Edinburgh

Langholm, a small border town in Dumfriesshire, although cautious about handing accolades to local notables, is preparing to mark the memory of its most famous son, Hugh MacDiarmid, the poet, who was born and buried there.

The Scottish Sculpture Trust yesterday announced plans to create a memorial sculpture to him in a field near the town. The Duke of Buccleuch has provided the site.

The trust has launched an appeal for £7,500, which will be matched by the Scottish Arts Council, to fund a competition to provide the sculpture. "We hope it will stimulate sculptural activity in Scotland and lead to the kind of work which Rodin honoured Balzac and which Brancusi created in the park at Targu Jiu, in Romania", the trust said.

When MacDiarmid (1892-1978) was alive his marvellous, evocative poetry seemed to sail over the heads of the Langholm council, which declined to grant him the freedom of the town. It bestowed that honour instead on Mr Neil Armstrong, the astronaut, who is descended from a border clan but whose personal connexion with Langholm has been described as cosmic.

Langholm is already dominated by a monument, a towering memorial more than 100ft high on a hilltop to Sir John Malcolm. MacDiarmid's monument in Lambhill Field, a pleasant slope overlooking the town, will be less evident.

The house where MacDiarmid, the non-deplume of Christopher Grieve, was born is now part of the town's tourist office; the room above was once the public library he used. The only memorial to him so far is a bench in Princes Street Garden, Edinburgh, from which someone has removed the plaque.

## Fear grows among black leaders that racial attack led to 12 deaths

By Lucy Hodges

A big campaign has been launched by blacks in South London who believe that the fire in Deptford which resulted in 12 deaths two weeks ago was probably a racial attack and is not being treated as such by the police.

Meetings have been held in the past week, including a big demonstration outside the burnt-out house in New Cross Road, and a fact-finding inquiry has been established by the black community.

A Massacre Action Committee has also been set up. Yesterday a £5,000 reward was offered by Westindian World for information leading to the conviction of those responsible for the fire.

The fire, which happened on January 18 after a party, is being seen by black leaders as the greatest tragedy to affect their people in Britain. This week's Westindian World referred to it as the "Lewisham mass murder".

Yesterday Mr Mike Phillips, of Westindian World, told a meeting: "We have got our own Jack the Ripper wiping out a dozen black people at a time. We are hoping to help to solve the crime and to concentrate attention on how the crime was and on the situation in this area, where racialist attacks are taking place all the time."

Blacks are critical of the way the police have handled the inquiry. Mr Russell Proffitt, a

Lewisham councillor, said that the impression given by the police last weekend was that they were ruling out racial motives. He was glad to see they now had an open mind.

Two Metropolitan Police commanders who were present at the meeting emphasized that they were taking the fire, which which they think was started deliberately, and the 12 deaths extremely seriously.

The Special Branch had been called in and more than 50 officers were working in what was the largest police inquiry mounted in south London, they said.

Commander John Smith, who is in charge of the local division, said the arson attack might turn out to have been racially motivated but no evidence had been found. He and Commander Graham Stockwell, who is organizing the inquiry, sympathized with the grieving relatives.

Earlier Mrs Gee Ruddock, the mother of Yvonne Ruddock, who had been celebrating her sixteenth birthday at the party and died in the fire, said she felt numb. "My heart is broken and I can still hear the sound of the screams", she said.

Commander Stockwell said he welcomed the £5,000 reward offered. A team of fire investigation scientists was working on the case.

The fire had been caused by paint thinner being sprinkled over Mrs Ruddock's front parlour at about 5.30 am

## In brief

## Paper to close after 200 years

The *Doncaster Gazette* closed down yesterday after nearly 200 years of publication.

Doncaster Newspapers, which owned the paper, is offering the seven journalists employed on it voluntary redundancies or re-deployment.

## Coypu toll doubles

A total of 6,820 coypos were trapped and killed in East Anglia last year, twice the number in the previous year. Norwich coypos control headquarters said yesterday. The animals, which destroy farm crops, have also moved into north-east Essex.

## Water rates soar

Water rates for householders in the Yorkshire Water Authority area will rise by a quarter from April. Charges have been affected not only by inflation but also by industry using less water during the recession.

## Nursery cuts rejected

Proposals to close nine nursery classes with the loss of 14 teaching jobs have been rejected by Cumbria education committee. Hundreds of people had protested in Kendal yesterday over the planned cuts.

## Fingertip rescue

Mr Terence Ball, who climbed out of a second-floor window as fire engulfed his flat in Dale Street, Nottingham, yesterday, was rescued as he clung to the window ledge by his fingertips.

## Body found after fire

Detectives were investigating a fire yesterday at a flat in Montgomery Road, Farnborough, Hampshire, where Mrs Violet Lewis was found dead. Mr Herbert Lewis, her husband, was rescued by neighbours.

## £59,340 bonuses

Orkney Islands Council paid out £59,340 from its oil revenue fund for a £15 Christmas bonus to about 4,000 pensioners, widows and disabled people, it was disclosed yesterday.

## QC heads inquiry

Mr Arthur Milson, QC, is to chair a panel of inquiry into the death of Lucy Gates, aged two, who died when a fire fell on her when she was left alone in a flat at Welling, Kent.

## Long broad beans

Mr Derrick Gillett, aged 68, a plant breeder at Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, has produced 18-inch long broad beans containing 10 beans in a pod.

## Children's hospital saved from closure

From John Chartres

Liverpool Government yesterday rejected a proposal to close the Heasall branch of the Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital, which has an international reputation for dealing with the cleft palate type of speech defect.

A working party had recom-

mended the closure of the 150-bed hospital to save £587,000 during the next financial year and £845,000 in 1982-83. Liverpool Area Health Authority faces a £2m annual deficit.

Yesterday, however, Dr Gerard Vaughan, Minister for Health, wrote to Sir Eric Driver, chairman of the Mersey Regional Health Authority, say-

ing that the hospital should not close.

The decision has been welcomed by doctors, surgeons and child health experts on Merseyside, who had objected to the proposal. Believing that the hospital has a special role to play even under the present financial stringencies.

## New move to oust TV head fails

From Philip Robinson

Plymouth Lord Harris of Greenwich yesterday defeated a second attempt to oust him as chairman of Westward Television, which ceases operating as a television station at the end of this year.

He was one of three directors whom Mr William Cheevers, former Westward managing director, wanted removed from the board because he said they had not exercised sufficient financial control over the company.

However, his move to dismiss Lord Harris was defeated at a special shareholders' meeting in Plymouth by three to one, with Lord Harris supported by holders of more than half of the 200,000 voting shares.

These included the board's merchant bank advisers, Hambros, who bought a fifth of the voting shares from Mr Peter Cadbury, former Westward chairman, last November as part of an agreement he made to sever links with the company.

Moves to oust Mr Ronald Perry, the present managing director, and Mr Kenneth Holmes were also defeated.

Mr Cheevers wanted to know why Westward had been the only company to cut its dividend last year, why shareholders had not seen the accounts' report into the affairs of the company, and why if the board felt that the company finances needed investigation, it did not call in the Department of Trade.

Mr Holmes told him that the board had cut the dividend after considering profitability, cash, and the general outlook for the company. Lord Harris said that no assurance had ever been given to shareholders that they would see the accounts' report.

He told shareholders that he thought Mr Cheevers's requisitioning the meeting at a time when the Independent Broadcasting Authority was discussing the new television franchises was a large factor in Westward losing its franchise.

Independent programme-makers will contribute at least 10 hours a week of the 50 hours the new channel is expected to broadcast.

Mr Peacock said there was a theory in some quarters that channel four "is still 'iffy' and that final decisions have got to be taken. This is totally to misunderstand what is happening. "The days of waiting are over and from now on every week sees the momentum gathering behind the emergence of channel four."

## Lloyd's brokers jailed for bilking railway

From Our Correspondent

Two commuters who defrauded the railway were each jailed for 28 days at Southend Crown Court yesterday.

Mr Brian Briggs, 40, of Essex, said that similar offences might also produce custodial sentences.

Clifford Felstead, aged 37, of Elm Road, and Anthony Mannion, aged 32, of Flemming Crescent, both Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, and both insurance brokers at Lloyd's, had denied a joint charge of conspiring to defraud British Rail.

Mr Christopher Hookway, for the prosecution, said they were both short of money. Mr Mannion reported his annual season ticket lost and obtained a duplicate. He sold the original ticket to Mr Felstead for about £250 and they used the two tickets for about eight months until they were caught.

## Jury barred from legal arguments in murder trial

The jury was sent out of the handsomely carpeted and murder trial at Lancaster Crown Court yesterday for legal arguments to be heard in private. The trial will be resumed today.

Evidence was given earlier by a prosecution witness, Mr Gavin Leydon, who complained about the treatment by local police. He denied a defence suggestion that he was a liar and an informer who hoped to "feed the police a little fib-bit" to please them. He agreed that he had been in trouble most of his life.

Earlier in the day when Mr Montague Dovenor, QC, for the defence, was at the home of Mr Charles Mantell, QC, his opponent number for the Crown, Mr Mantell's bull terrier, Bill, bit his right hand. Mr Dovenor arrived in court 30 minutes late.

He said new agreements would have to be drawn up with the unions and all the present agreements would be examined to see where more

## Independent programme makers form new TV group

By Kenneth Gosling

A new production force in British television came into being yesterday when 200 independent programme-makers launched a trade association and announced plans for co-operating with the Channel Four Television Company.

Mr Michael Peacock, chairman of the Independent Programme Producers' Association, said at a press conference in London that the launch marked the start of a new industry that would create employment and opportunities that would be of

great benefit to the British television, film, information and entertainment industries.

He said that until now there had been no way for independent producers to sell their work to the BBC or the independent television companies. He spoke of a production, made at a cost of £75,000, for which the BBC had offered only £6,000.

He said new agreements would have to be drawn up with the unions and all the present agreements would be examined to see where more

flexibility was needed. Much tough talking and argument lay ahead, but he thought the unions, especially those representing performers and writers, would welcome the new association.

Mr Peacock said the association had a potential membership of 500 but he thought the figure would settle at between 250 and 400. It would levy 1 per cent of the value of commissions from the fourth channel.

The association would be appointing an administrator and an industrial relations officer.

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## HOME NEWS

## Teachers escape in planned new cuts

By Diana Geddes  
Education Correspondent

Confidential government plans for more cuts in local authority spending on education over the next three years envisage big reductions in higher education in the maintained sector, but little change in teacher numbers beyond those already planned.

The proposals, set out in a Department of Education and Science paper discussed yesterday by the local authorities and Mr Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education and Science, give revised targets for spending by local authorities in England up to 1983-84. The Government is looking for further savings of £98m in 1982-83 and £46m in 1983-84 (at 1979 survey prices) as well as those already planned and published in the last Public Expenditure White Paper.

The additional cut of £87m now planned for 1981-82 was announced at the time of the rate support grant settlement in December.

Local authority education spending is now planned to fall from a total of £6,058m in 1981-82 to £5,844 in 1983-84. The White Paper assumed that local authority education spending would total £6,145m in 1981-82 and would fall to £5,890m in 1983-84 (all at constant 1979 prices).

Under the new plans, the number of full-time teachers in schools would fall from 426,000 in 1980-81 to 385,000 in 1983-84. Mr Carlisle acknowledged that it would be difficult, but said he was concerned to protect the schools as far as possible. The local authorities emphasized that the cuts proposed in teaching numbers, although a little different from the old ones, would still have a serious impact on the curriculum, and the situation was getting rapidly worse.

## Top college widens its entry scheme

By Our Education Correspondent

Hertford College, Oxford, won agreement from the Oxford colleges yesterday to expand its unusual unconditional entrance scheme, which has been responsible, at least in part, for the college's spectacular leap from the bottom to near the top of the university's academic league table.

From next September Hertford will be able to accept up to a third of its undergraduate intake on the basis of interview and school report alone, with no requirement to take the entrance examination or to achieve A level grades required for university matriculation.

## Book withdrawn after threat of legal action

By Our Religious Affairs Correspondent

A book describing alleged links between certain right-wing Christian organizations, secular right-wing groups and the South African Government's information service has been withdrawn from sale after a threat of legal action.

It was to have been published today by Kogan Page Ltd, and introduced at a press conference given by Mr Derrick Knight, the author. The conference has been cancelled, and the publisher has requested the return of review copies.

Mr Peter Newman, marketing director of Kogan Page, said: "We have had a libel claim, and we have withdrawn it at least temporarily while the difficulties are resolved." He said the book did not wish to say who had complained at this stage.

## Water council expected to improve 7.9% offer

By Donald Macintyre  
Labour Reporter

The National Water Council is to hold fresh talks with union negotiators, at which it is likely to improve the 7.9 per cent offer decisively rejected by the industry's 33,000 employees.

The move, announced yesterday, offered the first real hope of a negotiated settlement in the industry since talks broke down on January 6.

The council said yesterday that the meeting would be held with an improved offer "in mind".

The executive of the biggest union in the industry, the General and Municipal Workers Union (GMWU), has sanctioned a strike unless the offer is improved, and members of the National Union of Public Employees and the Transport

Union of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians says that would cost the taxpayer more.

Mr Alan Sapper, general secretary of the union, said yesterday: "Unless the COI meets our demands for no redundancies, our members in film laboratories, independent television and film production will black all government film work."



Senior officers from Britain, Italy and West Germany at RAF Cottesmore for the opening ceremony yesterday.

Tornado crews will learn their trade in the heart of Leicestershire  
Training airfield for three nations opensFrom Henry Stanhope  
Defence Correspondent

The first RAF station in Britain where Sauerbraten and lasagne will jostle for an equal place on the menu alongside roast beef and cottage pie was opened yesterday amid a fanfare of trumpets by the chiefs of staff of three nations. It was the Tri-National Tornado Training Establishment, known as the TTE, where British, West German and Italian crews will be taught together how to fly the supersonic, swing-wing F111 aircraft.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Beetham, Chief of the Air Staff, said that the Tornado, the total procurement of which, including almost 400 aircraft, is costing Britain about £5,000m, had not been without its critics. But its cost had to be set

beside that of a £1m tank or a guided missile destroyer priced at more than £100m. The Tornado, which will form the core of the RAF's strength during the remaining years of the century, was able to sink ships, crater enemy airfields and defend British air space.

Sir Michael was followed on the rostrum by the chiefs of the West German and Italian air forces and the Commander-in-Chief Fleet of the West German Navy, which is also being equipped with the aircraft. Together they unveiled a plaque to open the TTE.

Because of bad weather plans for a spectacular fly-past by three Tornados, piloted in close formation by international crews, had to be curtailed. The chiefs of staff, standing to attention in the raw January morning, stared glumly at a loud but empty sky

as a solitary aircraft roared behind a curtain of low cloud and mist. The RAF hastened to say that the programme had been changed "for safety reasons" and did not reflect on the Tornado's all-weather capabilities.

A total of 809 Tornados have been ordered by the three countries, which have divided the work proportionately between them. Most are the inter-dictor-strike version, 220 of which are for the RAF, 212 for the German Air Force, 112 for the German Navy, and 100 for the Italian Air Force.

The RAF alone is also taking 165 of the larger £12.5m air defence variant, which will not be ready until the mid-1980s.

Pilots and navigators at Cottesmore will train for four weeks on ground courses, followed by nine weeks of flying, and will be taught in English.

## Plea for big change in secondary education

By Our Education Correspondent

Recommendations for a "vigorous transformation" of secondary education is made in a manifesto, published today, by a group of distinguished men and women in science, industry, politics, the churches, journalism, the arts and education.

The group of 32 include Lord Butler of Saffron Walden, the minister responsible for the Education Act, 1944; Mr John Tomlinson, chairman of the Schools Council; Sir Adrian Cadbury, chairman of Cadbury Schweppes; Mr Christopher Price, MP, chairman of the Commons Select Committee on Education, Science and the Arts; Sir Frederick Dainton, president of the Association for the Advancement of Science; Dr Jonathan Miller, theatre and television director; and the Right Rev B. C. Butler, auxiliary bishop to the Archbishop of Westminster.

Traditional secondary education cannot meet the demands of the future for competence in life and work, flexibility in the face of change and the development of the inner resources needed to make constructive use of free time, the manifesto says.

The system which herded young people into examination halls every year for a once-for-all race with the clock, on which their status in society depended, was becoming increasingly inappropriate.

It distorted the curriculum, excluded vital elements in education such as learning to

live and work in harmony with others, generated a damaging sense of failure among a large section of pupils, and positively rejected 10 to 20 per cent of the least able.

It also trained young people in intense academic competitiveness at a time when cooperative skills were everywhere in demand.

Secondary education was much too absorbed with the written word. In modern society oral fluency was of ever greater importance. The nationalistic tendencies of the past had to be extended by education to embrace global awareness, involvement and commitment, the manifesto says.

The traditional curriculum neglected too much the development of social/moral insight, so that the perennial values of civilized society were in jeopardy. Occasional periods of religious education could not alone provide a social/moral perspective.

Subjects were often taught in a narrow, one-dimensional form which deadened, rather than aroused, zest for learning.

The job of secondary schools should not be to concentrate on narrow, specialist study, but to provide a broad, integrated education which could serve as a good grounding for any specialization in tertiary education or in later life.

The full text of the 1,500-word manifesto for change, together with the list of all the signatories, is published in today's *Times Educational Supplement*.

## Council leader breaks ranks on cuts policy

By Our Local Government Correspondent

Mr Peter Bowness, leader of the London Boroughs Association, broke ranks with his local government colleagues by condemning government guidelines for spending reductions at a meeting of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities yesterday.

He said during a debate on the request by Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, for a cut of 5.6 per cent in the coming year over 1978-79 budgets, that he approved of the action.

Uniform opposition to the cut was expressed by local government representatives at a meeting of the consultative council on local finance with Mr Heseltine last week.

Mr Bowness said yesterday that he approved of the 5.6 per cent target because authorities which had complied with every government request to make savings nevertheless faced large rate increases through financing councils which refused to make economies.

He was criticized for his dissent by Mr Jack Smart, chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities. Some authorities could not achieve the targets, Mr Smart said.

## Jersey looks to France for its electricity

From Our Correspondent  
St Helier

Jersey is to be plugged into the French national grid to meet its electricity demands. There are plans for an £11m submarine cable to the Normandy coast which by 1985 will be capable of providing up to half the island's electricity needs.

Strong opposition is expected from environmentalist groups in the island, who object to the nuclear power stations on the French coast near by.

Mr Richard Wade, managing director of the Government-controlled Jersey Electricity Company, who is setting up the link, said: "The French have nuclear power stations situated on the Normandy coast whether we like it or not. The real question is whether we are going to take advantage of a situation."

## Small woods cut down at 'quite alarming rate'

By Hugh Clayton  
Agriculture Correspondent

Small woods were being cut down "at a quite alarming rate", Mr Derek Barber, chairman of the Countryside Commission, said yesterday. He was appealing at the annual meeting in London of Timber Growers England and Wales for conservation between rival factions in the countryside.

He gave a warning that farmers and foresters would probably face stricter planning controls in the uplands but not in the lowlands. "I think that would be absolutely barney," he said.

He believed that unless a body was created to arbitrate between the rival claims to land of farmers and foresters,

## Cheap school meals may be postponed

By Our Education Correspondent

The proposed reduction in school meal charges in inner London from 25p to 20p should be postponed at least until after the local government elections in May, the schools subcommittee of the Inner London Education Authority decided yesterday.

A report from the chief education officer suggested that the proposed price reduction would cost the authority £2,500,000 a year on the assumption that the number of pupils taking school meals would increase by 3 per cent, and would cost more if there was a bigger increase in uptake.

Another report from the authority's director of legal services gave a warning that a reduction to 25p could expose the authority to a successful challenge in the courts as the resulting benefit to ratepayers was likely to be small in comparison with the increase in rates.

The schools subcommittee decided after those reports that the price should remain at 35p for the time being.

Numbers fell: The number of pupils taking school meals has dropped by more than a quarter from nearly five million a year ago to 3.5 million now, Mr Neil Macfarlane, Under-Secretary of State for Education and Science, announced in the Commons yesterday.

The drop reflects the change in the law last spring that allowed local authorities to charge what they liked for school meals, and also reduced the number of children eligible for free meals. Most authorities charge between 40p and 60p, compared with 30p a year ago.

Corporal punishment: The National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers said that it would support members who refused to carry out voluntary rates in schools in protest against the authority's decision to go ahead with its plans to abolish corporal punishment in "county" secondary and special schools from next Monday.

The authority decided yesterday not to accept the union's proposal for a declaration of an official dispute.

## WEST EUROPE

## Two men sentenced to death in France for hold-up murder

From Charles Hargrove  
Paris, Jan 29

The assizes at Chalon-sur-Seine, near Lyons, yesterday sentenced two men to death for the murder in a hold-up last February of a petrol station attendant, Charles Diemer, who was 22.

The jury not only sentenced to death the murderer, Paul Laplace, aged 59, already twice sentenced to life imprisonment for other offences, but freed conditionally after serving only six years, but also pronounced the same sentence on his accomplice, Bruno Albert, aged 27. The public prosecutor had only demanded a life sentence in his case.

These sentences bring to six the total of prisoners waiting to know their fate in various condemned cells—all sentenced in the past four months. They await the verdict of the Cour de Cassation, the highest court to handle criminal cases.

The jury took one and a half hours to reach its decision. In the case of M Laplace, the death sentence was almost a foregone conclusion taking into account the mood of public opinion and his sharp reactions against second offenders.

M André Demole, the chief public prosecutor had emphasized that M Laplace had had a rather exceptional criminal career, tried by the assizes for the third time. If he had served his previous sentence in full, the victim would have been still alive. M Laplace had spent 20 years in jail and had, during his detention, obtained a qualification as a welder.

It was M Albert, employed in a supermarket in the suburbs of Chalon, who had suggested the hold-up. M Laplace had threatened the woman cashier with a sawn-off rifle. When M Diemer tried to intervene he was ordered to remain where he stood, but seconds later he was struck by a bullet in the stomach. He died after two weeks.

The two men made off by car and were seen four days later. M Laplace said he had panicked when the station attendant intervened and the shot had gone off by mistake. His counsel, Maître Jean-René Journef, told the jury: "I do not know what M Laplace has not killed. But I say he did not mean to kill. If you sentence him to 20 years, he will come out of prison in the year 2000. Do you not think this is sufficient?"

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## Lapps lose case after 15 years of court battles

Stockholm, Jan 29

The longest court case in Sweden's legal history ended today when the Swedish Supreme Court refused to recognize the right of a Lapp community to a hilly region in the north of the country.

In 1965, 11 Lapp villages sued the Swedish crown over ownership of some 4,000 square miles close to the Norwegian border. The Lapps' main motive was to win greater control over the region's development. They felt that their way of living and hunting was threatened by the construction of roads and railways and by a consequent increase in tourism.

But the state held that, as nomads, the Lapps could not acquire the right of ownership over a territory which they had never claimed in the course of history. —Agence France-Press.

## EEC licence setback to fishermen of Spain

From Harry Debelius  
Madrid, Jan 29

The failure of the European Community to extend licences for the Spanish fishing fleet by one more month, together with snags in negotiations with other countries continued today to create an imminent threat of idleness for an estimated 10,000 fishermen.

EEC members, unable to agree on their respective quotas, ended their last meeting of the month in Brussels yesterday without taking up the Spanish question. As a result, the 168 licences issued to Spaniards for deep sea fishing in Community waters for 1980, which were extended until January 31 this year, will run out at midnight on Saturday.

Another agreement, with Rabat, allowing Spanish fishing vessels to operate off the Moroccan coast, is also due to expire on Saturday, as is an agreement with Portugal.

The simultaneous expiry of these agreements is causing great concern to the Spanish government, which has been headed by Señor Carlos Robles Piquer, the Secretary of State for Foreign Relations, flew to Rabat today to try to break the deadlock in talks with Moroccan officials.

Bargaining over Community licences must wait, informed sources said, at least until February 10, when the EEC ministers responsible for fisheries matters meet in Brussels. Spanish authorities have insisted on a satisfactory agreement with Portugal before bargaining with the Moroccans.

The temporary ban on fishing in Community waters alone will put 7,000 Spanish fishermen, the crews of 415 ships, out of work until the issue is resolved. They exploit the 168 licences for deep sea fishing which the EEC has allotted.

Since the licences are based on the horsepower of the ships' engines, the 168 licences make it possible for about 200 ships to operate at any time. The take turns, which means that even without the enforced interruption of the Spanish fleet, which works off Europe's Atlantic coast, is active only half the time.

Spain protested bitterly when it was limited to 163 licences and 11,870 tons of hake, the country's favourite sea food. But when, last November, the EEC offered only 95 licences and 8,000 tons of hake for 1981, Spain balked and rejected a later offer of 98 licences too.

His personal experience as a mayor of a small village in Lorraine convinced him that if the death sentence were abolished, people would be even more inclined than at present to take the law into their own hands.

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## West Germany wants PoWs to be released

From Our Correspondent  
Berlin, Jan 29

The West German Government believes the remaining five German prisoners of war still held in captivity should be released.

The five PoWs are: Herr Rudolf Hess, the 87-year-old former deputy to Hitler, who is in the Allied prison at Spandau, West Berlin; Herr Franz Fischer, aged 79, a former Gestapo official, and Herr Ferdinand von Euten, aged 71, the former SS Hauptsturmführer, who are both imprisoned in Mauthausen, Herr Walter Reder, aged 65, the former SS Sturmbannführer who is now an Austrian citizen; and Herr Erich Koch, aged 84, the former Gauleiter of East Prussia and Reich Commissioner for the German-occupied Ukraine, who is imprisoned in Poland.

Afterwards, however, Mr Gavin Strang, the opposition spokesman on fisheries, was short of enthusiasm. Asked for a comment he replied with a general observation that the Opposition was pessimistic about prospects for a settlement at the EEC fisheries policy negotiations in February.

"The Norwegian agreement and the crisis situation in the industry is going to make it imperative for the Government to make a major statement about providing support for the industry in the absence of an agreement."

## EEC tax going up on food imports

From Michael Hornsby  
Brussels, Jan 29

The EEC tax on British food imports will rise to 16.4 per cent next Monday, intensifying the war of words between Mr Peter Walker, the Minister of Agriculture, and importers and consumer groups.

The tax is imposed to bridge the over-wide gap between the value of sterling and that of the "green pound", the special exchange rate used to translate EEC farm prices into the national currency.

As the pound, buoyed up by North Sea oil and high interest rates, has soared on the foreign exchange markets, there has been no compensating adjustment of the artificial "green" rate.

As a result the levy on imported bacon will rise next week to more than 7p a lb, on cheese to more than 10p a lb, on butter to more than 13p a lb, and on tinned ham to 14p a lb. Earlier this week importers

claimed that they would be able to cut the prices of those goods in British shops substantially, and in some cases by the full amount of the levy, if the "green pound" were revalued to bring it into line with sterling's real worth.

Mr Walker disputes these claims, maintaining that foreign producers would prefer to pocket the extra profits rather than let their prices fall if the import tax was removed. He points out, for example, that Danish bacon has a price advantage over British bacon even with the import tax.

Ministry of Agriculture officials said today that Mr Walker had no intention of reducing the "green pound" before the EEC's annual spring farm price fixing negotiations, and even then he would strongly resist it.

The French will undoubtedly be among those urging revaluation of both the green pound and the green Deutschmark, which they see as an impediment to their own food exports and as an unfair subsidy to those of Britain and West Germany.

Mr Walker's main defence is that revaluation of the "green pound" would hurt British farmers, who suffered a 24 per cent loss last year by reducing their EEC-guaranteed support prices by the full amount of the import tax. This, he contends, would far outweigh the gain to consumers.

A less appreciated aspect of the import tax is that it has furnished the EEC budget with an additional source of revenue. This means that the exhaustion of revenue, which had been widely forecast to occur this year, has receded until 1982.

With the threat of bankruptcy removed, at least for the time being, one of the pressures that might have worked to hold down the increase in farm prices at the spring settlement has been greatly relaxed, and the prospects for agricultural reform weakened.



# The most efficient engineering won.

The new Escort, our front wheel drive hatchback, is 'Car of the Year 1981'.

The following quotes from some of the judges are used in full. We haven't indulged in any crafty editing.

So without more ado, here's what they said. And why we think they said it.

'The most points for the Ford Escort, because it's new throughout, good appearance, a motor car with a brilliant and advanced design, the most up to date car on offer for the money'.

Dr. Alfred Prokesch

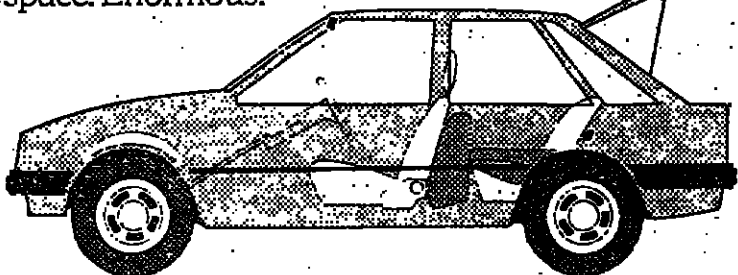
The reason that the Escort is so 'brilliant and advanced' is that we've kept the engineering as simple and straightforward as possible. In engineering simple is efficient.

That's one reason why the Escort costs so little to run.

'Scores heavily on styling, equipment, passenger comfort, ride and handling plus its meaningful contribution towards cutting the cost of motoring'.

Walter Haniel

The Escort is comfortable because it's so spacious. The engine is mounted transversely, which leaves more room for passengers. And with the back seat folded there's 48.7 cu ft of luggage space. Enormous.



Standard equipment on the Ghia includes a tilt slide sunroof. And options include such luxuries as electric windows, central door locking, tinted glass and headlamp washers.

'The Escort is a next to perfect car with an extremely good engine, a combination which should make it easier for many of us to step down into the economy class'.

Stig Bjorklund

The 1.3 and 1.6 litre engines are completely new. With features like self-adjusting tappets, breakerless ignition and aluminium cylinder heads, they're amazingly fuel efficient. There's also a 1.1 litre engine based on the proven Fiesta unit, which was widely praised for its power and economy. It pulls like a lion.

## Performance and economy - saloon

Government fuel consumption test figures Constant 56 mph (90 km/h) (mpg)			Top Speed (mph)
1.1 HC	49.6	5.7	90.1
1.3 HC	47.1	6.0	97.6
1.6 HC (IV)	44.1	6.4	103.8
Simulated urban cycle			Ford computed figures
1.1 HC	34.9 mpg (8.1 litres/100 km)	36.2 mpg (7.8 litres/100 km)	
1.3 HC	30.4 mpg (9.3 litres/100 km)	36.7 mpg (7.7 litres/100 km)	
1.6 HC	30.7 mpg (9.2 litres/100 km)	34.4 mpg (8.2 litres/100 km)	

'THE ESCORT IS THE BEST FORD EVER PRODUCED, BALANCED IN ITS CHARACTERISTICS, WITH A COMPLETE RANGE OF ENGINES WHICH PRACTICALLY NEVER NEED SERVICING'.

ARTURO DE ANDRES

The Escort actually needs a routine service at 12,000 miles, with a minor one at 6,000.

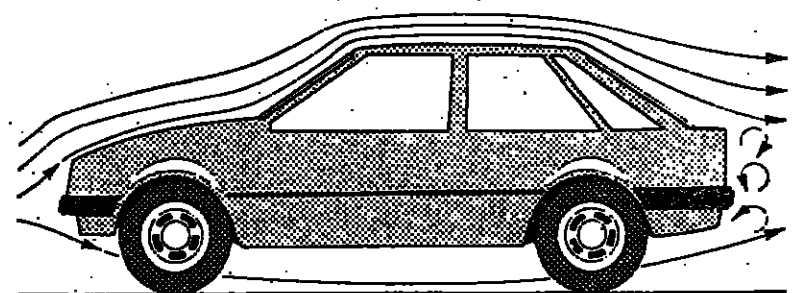
However the car is packed with so many labour saving ideas that even the 12,000 mile service is very straightforward. For instance, all Escorts have Ford's ingenious self-adjusting clutch. And the brakes can be checked for wear without removing the wheels.

'Ford Escort - by far the best car - and range - of 1980. All new, Efficient, Intelligent styling'.

Edouard Seidler

Styling used to be an art.

Today at Ford it's a science. Aimed mainly at improving aerodynamic efficiency. The Escort has a drag coefficient of just 0.385, something that contributes enormously to its fuel efficiency.



'Escort exhibits an up to date design, good handling characteristics and a high standard of workmanship'.

Paul Guth

The Escort owes its crisp handling to its all independent suspension, quick rack and pinion steering and its diagonally linked brakes.

While evidence of the workmanship is seen in its 20 stage anti-rust treatment, which includes total immersion in anti-corrosive paint and wax injection into doors and box sections.

It's built to last.

'The Escort is the best car ever built by Ford. Adding up all its characteristics the Escort outscored all the other cars presented this year'.

Rudolf Glismann

Well, that about sums it up. We'd like to say thank you to the judges. And remind you that the Escort is only one car from Ford's best selling range. If you'd like to test drive the Car of the Year 1981, it's at your Ford showrooms now.



# Car of the Year 1981.



FORD ESCORT





## OVERSEAS

# Shaikh Yamani urges West to 'correct Middle East damage'

From Robert Fisk

Al Hada, Saudi Arabia, Jan 29

Shaikh Zaki Yamani crossed the living room of his summer residence, his gold-fringed black robe billowing behind him and just the faintest trace of anxiety on his face. "King Hussein is waiting," he said. "I have to take him to the airport." He turned to us with the kind of ironic smile that only the world's most powerful minister could afford. "After all," he said, "I cannot keep a king waiting."

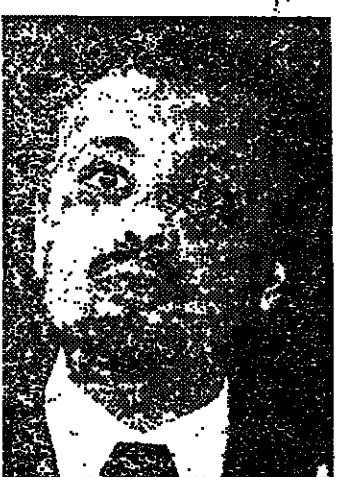
We followed him through the doors to the terrace where birds chattered high up in the air trees beside the empty swimming pool. A member of his staff switched on an automatic fountain and the cascade of water poured down a concrete sluice beside some cemented rocks. A gentle breeze rustled the bushes in the middle of the plastic lawn. There was scarcely a speck of dust on the false grass.

The Saudi Oil Minister walked to the other side of the pool. He had to leave immediately, he said. Robed advisers moved around him but he seemed to hesitate. "What are your questions?" he asked. Shaikh Yamani is slightly plumper than his photographs suggest but his finely groomed beard and moustache give him the essential element of decisiveness that other oil ministers have come to respect. In Bali last month, many of the oil delegates stood up when the Shaikh entered the conference chamber. Talk to him for only a few seconds and you quickly see why.

The third Islamic summit had just reaffirmed its intention to use economic sanctions against the West but Shaikh Yamani frowned when we suggested that he might use Saudi Arabia's oil weapon once more. "We never stopped using our oil weapon," he said. "In 1973, we did use it to attract world opinion to the Arab-Israeli conflict and to the fact that the West needs the Arab countries and has an interest in Arabia."

"But thereafter we kept using our oil as a positive weapon to tell the West not only that they need the Arabs but also that it can depend on them." Shaikh Yamani's secretary, a young Saudi with a degree in marketing from Arizona, smiled sharply. Behind the trees, the traffic murmured along the four-lane highway to Mecca. The Shaikh spoke very slowly, a man who was used to choosing his words with the care of a philologist.

"Israel cannot do anything without the help of the United States and the help of the West."



Shaikh Yamani: "Oil is a political instrument."

And you will have to be responsible for correcting the damage done so far.

"We are not trying to put any pressure on you. But do not forget that what we are doing right now with regard to our oil is far more than what we have to do in the ordinary circumstances. We are depleting our reserves, producing more than we need, in order to please you."

"Our policy is to use oil as a political instrument. We hope that the West will do what is needed in order to bring about a peaceful settlement in the area and therefore the oil weapon will be used in a constructive manner."

The Shaikh's replies, of course, depended upon his audience. To a correspondent of the American Broadcasting Company, he insisted that Saudi Arabia would not threaten the United States with an oil cut-off but he was none the less prepared to speculate upon the effect that a cutback of oil to provide just domestic Saudi consumption would have upon the United States.

"The rate of unemployment (in America) will at least double," he said. "The price of oil will double again. The rate of inflation will go up and then you can talk about the depression, not a recession."

"Definitely I'm not threatening. You threaten when you need. Among friends, you threaten."

A servant brought tea, tiny glasses on miniature saucers, on each of which lay a small solid gold spoon. Across the pool, another functionary unrolled a large and embroidered Arab carpet blue and gold on the marble terrace. Behind us, high on the mountainside, small clouds shuffled above the rocks and across towards Taif.

Was Soviet foreign policy and the Russian advance towards the Gulf and specifically towards Saudi Arabia? "There are so many interpretations to the Russian move," he said and then, with indulgent subtlety, continued: "One important interpretation is that they are slowly and gradually approaching the oilfields in order to secure a stable and secured supply of oil for them and for their satellites."

What supports this view is the Russian support for the Arabs of Africa and South Yemen and their efforts in Baluchistan to help the tribes and young people in guerrilla warfare. All these things are strong indications that the Russians really are serious about the oil.

"I am sure their real hope is to get an oilfield." The Saudis have of late been speaking in harsher vein than usual about the Russians. Shaikh Yamani clearly reacts no differently than his colleagues when it comes to Afghanistan. But he finished speaking abruptly, simply walking away round the side of the terrace to where the embroidered carpet had been spread out on the marble. His staff and seven bodyguards, and all took off their shoes.

And so one of the most powerful men on earth knelt down to pray beside his empty swimming pool. King Hussein would have to wait a little longer.

Moscow attack: Moscow radio said today that "reactionary Muslim regimes" were behind the Islamic conference resolution calling for the removal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan (UPI reports from Moscow).



Mr Edward Seaga, the Jamaican Prime Minister, and his wife, Misty, with President and Mrs Reagan, in Washington.

## President backs Seaga regime

From David Cross

Washington, Jan 29

Mr Edward Seaga, the Jamaican Prime Minister, today greeted an offer of moral and material support from President Reagan with great enthusiasm.

He said his country was "very keen and interested in seeing the new American Administration bolster the economies of democratic countries in the Caribbean and Central America, so that they could withstand infiltration by the Soviet Union and Cuba."

Mr Seaga, who is the first foreign government leader to visit Washington since Mr Reagan assumed office last week, has been having talks at the White House and the State Department with members of the new Administration.

The decision to invite him so early to Washington underlines Mr Reagan's promise to improve relations with America's neighbours.

Although Cuba had suffered several setbacks in recent elections in English-speaking Caribbean countries like his own and Dominica, it had not given up its efforts to extend its influence in the area, the Jamaican leader said.

"The Cubans are only standing in the wings waiting to see what will happen." They were waiting to see whether new "moderate" governments were

able to translate their capitalist economic policies into reality. During their talks, the two Governments had agreed to organize a joint group of officials to work out private development programmes in Jamaica.

Mr Seaga said. The group would also look at ways of modifying tax, investment and other laws in both countries to facilitate private investment in the Caribbean country.

There had already been an agreement in principle between the two Governments on changing United States tax laws to encourage American businessmen to hold conventions in Jamaica. This could be an important source of revenue for the country, which relied heavily on overseas visitors to provide much needed foreign exchange.

Mr Seaga, who was elected Prime Minister last October said that most of his talks in Washington had centred on ways of improving his country's ailing economy.

Talks involving officials from the International Monetary Fund to provide Jamaica with about \$500m (about £200m) to boost the economy were proceeding "very satisfactorily," Mr Seaga said. He expected that the loan package would be ready for approval by the monetary fund by mid-March.

The Jamaican leader promised that his Government would cooperate closely with Washington in helping the moderate anti-Cuban forces in the Caribbean and Central America. But Jamaica had to respect the independence and integrity of other governments.

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## President Belaunde's honeymoon with unions is over

### Austerity harms Peru democracy

From Kevin Dunn

Reuter Correspondent

Lima, Jan 29

Six months after the restoration of democracy in Peru, President Fernando Belaunde Terry is facing growing opposition from organized labour and members of the extreme left.

The 67-year-old former architect regained the presidency last July 28 on a wave of popular support after 2 years of military rule. But the failure of his conservative Government to fulfil promises of cutting inflation and providing jobs and hopes has fuelled discontent.

The focus of opposition is the bitter pill of austerity, which Señor Manuel Ulloa, the Prime Minister, has asked the 17 million Peruvians to swallow this year.

In a sombre new year speech, Señor Ulloa, who is also Minister of Economy and Finance, announced that the Government was reducing subsidies on basic foodstuffs and fuels. Staple foods such as milk, sugar, bread and rice soared by almost 50 per cent.

Wages, however, were increased by only 12 per cent. Trade unions seized on the measures to coordinate their campaign against the Government and call a one-day general strike in protest.

Despite the death of three people in clashes with police, the strike was less violent and less effective than many in recent Peruvian history. Although the Government survived its first serious test, the strike was far from the failure

claimed by cabinet ministers and pro-Government media. "People are beginning to realize they are no better, and perhaps worse off than six months ago," a foreign diplomat commented. "That may not be crucial now but if after a year or 18 months they are still no better off, Belaunde and democracy could be in trouble."

Another source of increasing irritation for the Belaunde administration has been a resurgence of sabotage attacks, apparently by left-wing extremists.

The attacks, blamed on a small Maoist group called Sendero Luminoso (Lighted Path), have damaged communication towers, banks, police stations and official buildings without causing casualties. Police, however, have not ruled out the possibility of political extremists were responsible for shooting a policeman in Lima earlier this month.

Another indication of increasing violence was news of an armed clash between anti-terrorist police and alleged leftist guerrillas in the southern region of Ayacucho. A guerrilla was killed and a police officer was injured, according to official sources.

The guerrillas are far from mounting a serious threat to the stability of the Government, according to political sources. But they said politicians of all parties feared popular discontent could turn increasingly militant if the economic crisis continues.

The Government's declared aim is to attack inflation, which was running at 60 per cent at the end of last year, and rejuvenate the economy.

According to Dr Ulloa, there are some signs of recovery. He said growth accelerated to 4.5 per cent in the second half of 1980 from 2.6 per cent in the first six months of the year. The official target for this year is 6 per cent.

But the country remains saddled by a foreign debt of almost \$10,000m (£4,170m) which will eat up 36 per cent of this year's state revenue on repayments.

Key aspects of Government policy are to attract foreign investment and reduce import tariffs to stimulate national industry. Left-wingers have won wide publicity by accusing the Government of wanting to hand over the country's natural resources, principally minerals and petroleum, to the multinational corporations.

President Belaunde himself, though probably still the most popular politician in the country, has not been immune to criticism. Despite his popularity, he failed recently in an attempt to neutralize a general strike in the jungle capital of Iquitos by making a much publicized personal visit.

However, political opposition is far from united and the largest party outside the Government, the Apra (American Revolutionary Popular Alliance), is torn by internal disputes.

## Premier and Solidarity meet today

Warsaw, Jan 29—Solidarity,

the Polish free trade union organization, announced tonight that its leaders would hold talks with Mr Jozef Piskorski, the Prime Minister, tomorrow in an effort to halt cycle of strikes and labour protests.

Mr Lech Walesa, the leader of Solidarity, agreed to the Warsaw meeting after talks with Mr Stanislaw Ciosek, the Minister for Union Affairs, in the eastern city of Rzeszow, the strike headquarters of Polish farmers who are demanding the right to set up their own union.

The talks with Mr Ciosek, which union officials said took place in a good atmosphere, came after a decision by Solidarity's national consultative commission to call a five-day moratorium on strikes.

Meanwhile, the Soviet news agency Tass today made its strongest attack on Solidarity since Poland's labour unrest started last summer, accusing it of trying to wreck the economy and destroy socialism.

The criticism was in a report from Warsaw which strongly implied that the Polish authorities should make no further concessions to Solidarity over Saturday working or on other strikes.

Barley offer: Poland yesterday made its first offer for part of the British share of the record EEC barley "mountain", which has been on sale for a fortnight. The bids were vetted yesterday by the EEC cereals management committee, which includes officials from all member states (Hugh Clayton writes).

## Mr Reagan denounces Soviet use of détente

From Patrick Brogan

Washington, Jan 29

President Reagan, in his first press conference today, issued a stern denunciation of the Soviet Union and all its works, and said that any renewed arms limitation talks would have to be on the basis of actual reductions in the numbers of nuclear warheads.

He was asked what he thought were the long range intentions of the Soviet Union, and replied: "So far, détente has been a one-way street that the Soviet Union has used to pursue its own ends."

He said that since the Russian revolution there had been no Soviet leader who had not repeated "their determination that their goal must be the promotion of world revolution and the one world socialist or communist state."

Now as long as they do that, and as long as they at the same time have openly and publicly declared that the only morality they recognize is what will further their cause, meaning they reserve unto themselves the right to commit any crime, to lie, to cheat in order to attain that, and that is moral, not immoral, and we operate on a different set of standards. I think when you do business with them, even under détente, you keep that in mind."

President Reagan reaffirmed that the United States would stand up against any new act of terrorism perpetrated against it. "People have gone to bed in some of these countries that have done these things to us in the past, and they are confident that they can go to sleep and wake up in the morning and that the United States wouldn't have taken any action."

"What I meant by that phrase was that anyone who does these things to us is not going to be able to go to bed with that confidence." The phrase he meant was his promise that future violations of the rules of international behaviour would meet

with "swift and effective retribution."

On the other hand, asked whether the United States would exact vengeance from Iran, he replied that revenge was not worthy of the Americans. What would it do? he asked. He went on to say that he did not think that the United States could act as though nothing had happened.

Mr Reagan insisted that the Salt army limitation treaty was unacceptable to him because it permitted large increases in the numbers of Soviet warheads — an argument that many experts will find a striking oversimplification. On a number of other matters, where reporters asked him questions on specific matters, he admitted his ignorance, saying that the subjects were under examination.

He started the press conference with an announcement that he was taking steps immediately to reduce the federal budget, pointing out that the national debt ceiling had just been raised to \$985,000m.

He said that he had just ordered that the wages and price control programmes of the Council on Wage and Price Stability would be abolished.

He promised more substantial cuts soon, saying that the cuts will apply to every sector of the budget and that they will be bigger than anyone expects. The Washington Post claims this morning that foreign aid will be cut by \$2,500m from \$8,000m.

He also announced that he was imposing an immediate freeze on the regulation of 600 days, to give his Administration time to set up a review body.

He was asked about tax cuts, and replied that the question of the date from which they would be calculated was still being discussed. But the main thing was to establish the principle that 10 per cent would be taken off personal income tax every year for three years, with corresponding cuts in taxes on business.

## Iran screens last-day talks with captives

Tehran, Jan 29—Iran today

showed film of interviews made with some of the 52 United States hostages on the day before their release in which most said they were generally well-treated. But the two women captives complained of maltreatment.

The apparently unedited film was shown to foreign and Iranian journalists by state television, and consisted of interviews with 14 people, conducted by a woman speaking good English.

Television staff said the interviewer was one of the radical Muslim students who occupied the United States embassy in Tehran on November 4, 1979.

Iran has denied charges that the captives who were released on January 20, were tortured during their 444 days of confinement.

One unidentified man declined to speak to the Iranian film interviewer and left his seat.

Elizabeth Ann Swift, aged 40, a political officer at the embassy, said that at first she had been tied to a chair each day, blindfolded, and made to sleep on the floor without a mattress.

"In the first month and a half, we were questioned intensively. In the beginning, we were threatened with death if the girls who took care of us tried their best to have good relations with us."

But Kathryn Koob, formerly director of the Iran-American Cultural Society, said: "I did not experience the intensive questioning that Ann did in the beginning."

Asked about allegations of torture or brainwashing, Miss Swift said: "When the student first came to the embassy, we were threatened with death, with pistols, with all sorts of methods to get us in open safes, to get us to talk."

The men interviewed said they had been generally well-treated, well fed and attended to. One of them, Mr Gregory Pervinger, said their student captors "treated us pretty fairly, better than I would have thought."

Mr Ahmad Azizi, Director of American Hostage Affairs in the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said after the screening that there was nothing in the interviews which matched contentions about mistreatment made by the United States government.

Washington contact: One of the 14 hostages held in the Iranian foreign ministry has disclosed that he maintained daily telephone contact with Washington during the first few months of captivity. Mr Victor Tomsich, interviewed last night by ABC television, said they had to invent a conversation in the content of the messages, because they passed through the Iranians.

## Moscow defends criticism of US in hostages crisis

Moscow, Jan 29—The Soviet

Union said today that its stand on the American hostages had been principled and that continued references to the new resolution were pretexts for strengthening United States forces in the Gulf area.

The Russian position was set out in a statement to Mr Jack Matlock, acting United States Chargé d'Affaires, who was called to the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

The Soviet statement, issued by Tass news agency, rejected as unfounded complaints by the United States that the Soviet Union was not doing enough to help the hostages.

the 14 months the embassy hostages were held in Iran and said the Kremlin's stand had been "consistent."

After the hostages were seized by Islamic militants in November 1979, Moscow vetoed a United Nations Security Council resolution calling for sanctions against Iran saying the seizure should be viewed in the context of past American involvement in Iran's affairs.

In the latter stages of negotiations leading to the hostages' release, Moscow Radio alleged that the United States was about to launch an armed attack against Iran.—Reuter.

## Charges signal tighter grip on Turkish press

Ankara, Jan 29—Turkish

military authorities have charged three journalists with violating a military ban on political activity. Newspaper sources said today that the move appeared to be an extension of attempts to control the press, although censorship has not been imposed.

Mr Ugur Mumcu, a columnist, and Mr Turhan Ilgaz, senior editor of the left-wing newspaper Cumhuriyet (Republic), and Mr Orhan Birgit, a columnist with the leftist Duzgun (World) newspaper, face a maximum sentence of a year's imprisonment.

Four senior editors of Turkey's best-selling newspaper, Hurriyet, who were detained and questioned in Istanbul for several days have now been released.

A martial law court in Istanbul has sentenced four right-wing terrorists to 36 years each in prison for the premeditated murder of leftist opponents. The four belonged to the now-defunct extreme nationalist Action Party.—Reuter and AP.

## Israeli troops evict Jewish squatters from Hebron

From Moshe Brilliant

Tel Aviv, Jan 29

Israeli soldiers evicted 40 Jewish religious nationalists today from a three-storey building in Hebron. The building was taken over yesterday to strengthen the Jewish presence in the ancient city, which is sacred to both Jews and Muslims.

The squatters claimed their action had been in line with the policy of the Government, which last March voted to establish a Jewish presence including religious schools in Hebron. The Government was prevented from executing its decision because it appeared to the parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee, where there was an obvious majority against it. The scheme has been kept in abeyance.

Mr Moshe Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, ordered troops to remove the squatters after they had rejected his appeals to leave voluntarily. The squatters put up passive resistance, forcing the soldiers to carry them out.

The building was said to have been a house owned by a Hasidic sect until 1929 when Arabs massacred the Jews of Hebron in a pogrom. The leader of the sect, who emigrated to the United States, was said to have given a power of attorney to one of the would-be settlers to manage his property.

The settlers said that they had come to terms with Arabs who had been given the premises as workshops. The Government rejected the squatters' arguments by stating that Hebron was under military administration and permission from the Army was needed for settlement.

Nine MPs start their tour at PLO's invitation

Beirut, Jan 29—Nine British MPs arrived here from London today to begin a Middle East tour at the invitation of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). A spokesman told reporters that the MPs, five Conservatives and four Labour, hoped to meet Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, if he returned in time from the Islamic summit conference in Saudi Arabia.

The MPs also hoped to meet Mr Abdulhadi Khaddam, the Syrian Foreign Minister, in Damascus, King Hussein Jordan in Amman and Mr Bassam Shakaa, the Palestinian mayor of the Israeli-occupied West Bank town of Nablus during their tour. Mr Shakaa's legs were blown off by a car bomb explosion in Nablus last year and he was given artificial limbs during treatment in London. He returned to Nablus two weeks ago.—UPI.

## Chinese try to form free trade unions

Peking, Jan 29—Workers

and students in central China have been trying to set up independent trade unions free of Communist Party control, according to the Wuhan newspaper Yangtze River Daily.

It said: "An extremely small minority of people who want to create fear in the present orderly situation are attempting to shake off the party's leadership and want to set up free trade unions and independent student unions."

"If these people are not acting from ulterior motives, then they are doing so out of supreme ignorance."

The newspaper admitted that the Communist Party had committed errors, particularly the Maoist Cultural Revolution of 1966-76, but said that they were inevitable in a country of a thousand million people.

It added that the Communist Party could not be replaced by any other party.

## American Commentary by Patrick Brogan

### Key relationship for successful diplomacy

Washington

When he welcomed the hostages home on Tuesday, President Reagan said: "Let us be aware that we are the rules of international behaviour are violated, our policy will be one of swift and effective retribution."

Mr Alexander Haig, his Secretary of State, said the next day that the statement was "consciously ambiguous." It was the first of what will clearly be a series of statements setting out the way the new Government sees its role in the world.

The first point is that Mr Haig will be foreign minister de facto well as de jure. Mr Richard Allen, the President's national security adviser, has been banished to the basement of the White House, back to the job from which one of his predecessors, Dr Henry Kissinger, rose to take over the Government's foreign policy.

These symbolic things have great importance: Dr Kissinger, and more recently, Dr Brzezinski, occupied the large corner office on the ground floor of the White House west wing, within a few steps of the President's own offices. When President Ford purged his Government, at Christmas, 1975, Dr Kissinger was forced to give up the office and move permanently to the State Department.

Mr Haig, who used to occupy another corner office in the same building when he was President Nixon's Chief of Staff, well understands the importance of such things. He has prepared memoranda for Mr Reagan setting out the way foreign policy ought to be conducted, and he claims that his drafts have been prepared with the assistance of Mr Allen.

President and Secretary of State hope, therefore, that their foreign policy will be more consistent than was President Carter's which suffered from the ceaseless disagreements be-

tween Secretary of State and national security adviser. It all depends, of course, as in any government, on the President's confidence in the Secretary.

Mr Reagan wants the United States to have a forceful foreign policy. This does not mean saying the M's into every trouble spot but it does mean giving the appearance of firmness whenever important American interests are challenged.

The new President is fortunate that the heritage crisis has been resolved. He can learn his way around the White House before that first challenge arises.

Naturally enough, to give merely the appearance of firmness is not enough, and the experience of the past few years suggests that firmness will have to be demonstrated as well.

President Kennedy tried, and failed, at the Bay of Pigs, and tried again and succeeded spectacularly in the Cuban missile crisis in 1962.

President Johnson showed his firmness of purpose in Vietnam, and American foreign policy has suffered the consequences ever since.

While waiting for the next crisis, and trusting Mr Haig's military instincts to see him through it, President Reagan must also prepare himself for the traditional test of wills with the Soviet Union.

It is alleged that Mr Khushchey learnt to despise President Kennedy after meeting him in Vienna. It seems at least possible that the Russians formed the same opinion of President Carter when they learned of his new Salt proposals in 1977, and then withdrew them because the Russians rejected them so firmly.

For Mr Reagan, therefore, the question is how to set about restoring the Salt negotiations. This will be the first test of Mr Reagan's ability to sustain diplomacy.

## Senators find Mr Donovan suitable for job

From Our Own Correspondent

Washington, Jan 29

Mr Raymond Donovan, President Reagan's controversial choice to be Secretary of Labor, today secured the approval for his nomination of a majority of the Senate committee which has been investigating his suitability.

But a number of Democrats on the Senate labour and human resources committee, including Senator Edward Kennedy, declined to support Mr Donovan because of deep concern over unproven allegations.

The Labour Secretary-designate has been accused of various improprieties involving the New Jersey construction company which he used to run.

The lifting of martial law has brought renewed demands from the opposition for a direct election but Mr Marcos up to now has maintained that such an election might prove a farce if he were the only candidate or were faced by an embarrassingly weak opponent.

So far there is no indication of what candidate, if any, the opposition might put up. The obvious opponent would be Senator Benigno Aquino, now in the United States who indicates a desire to return.

But lawyers are understood to have warned him against coming back unless given cast-iron legal guarantees that he would not be re-arrested on the serious charges recently revived against him after terrorist bombings in Manila last year.

The first 12 days, since the lifting of martial law, imposed eight years ago, have passed without serious disturbance. First to test the new atmosphere

were students who rallied outside the United States Embassy to protest about the lifting of martial law and "United States domination of the Philippines." The police response was measured and there were no arrests as the demonstrators dispersed after 30 minutes.

But the students, like the rest of the population, know that despite the issue of Proclamation 2045, which officially ended martial law, the President's powers to detain anyone he considers subversive are virtually unaltered. The same proclamations made under martial law can be made under the 1973 constitution.



## OVERSEAS

## Zimbabwe Army used as means to disband ex-guerrillas

From Stephen Taylor Salisbury, Jan 29

Pressure has been put on the Zimbabwe Government to disband the army as an issue that is both its main priority and its most sensitive problem — the process of integrating former guerrillas in the national army.

Mr. of the Rhodesian Front yesterday asked Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, searching questions about the final size of the army, its composition and maintenance costs.

While declining to state figures, Mr. Mugabe said the size of the army was still the subject of discussion and repeated his pledge to integrate every trained former guerrilla, who opted to join the army would be absorbed.

At a press conference two weeks ago, Mr. Mugabe announced that the integration process was being accelerated to bring 24,000 former Zippa and Zulu guerrillas into the army between now and August.

The announcement attracted little attention at the time as it came on the heels of the cabinet reshuffle in which Mr. Joshua Nkomo, Mr. Mugabe's coalition partner and the leader of the Zippa force, was demoted.

Between June and December of last year, about 9,000 former guerrillas were integrated to form nine battalions by the so-called "sausage machine" approach adopted by the British Military Advisory and Training Team, which is running the project.

Military sources express considerable satisfaction at the performance of these battalions. Some of these have been deployed in action against disaffected gangs and have been

prepared, when necessary, to open fire on their former comrades.

But tens of thousands of men remain in the ceasefire assembly points, where they have been kicking their heels for more than a year. In the bush around Salisbury and Bulawayo, and on agricultural projects, they have refused to give up their weapons.

It appears that the Government, being unwilling or unable to force the issue, has now decided to move them into the army as soon as possible.

The main question hanging over the exercise is how many men are still to be integrated as the accepted estimate of a total of 25,000 Zippa and Zulu guerrillas, made after the men had reported to the assembly points last year, is almost certainly too low.

An accurate assessment is hampered by the scattered distribution of the men and the fact that many guerrillas remain outside the country where they trained during the war of independence. But military sources acknowledge privately that the earlier estimate is too low and a reliable source puts the number who will have to be absorbed into the army at 50,000.

At present, military planners expect to have by August an army comprising 33,000 former guerrillas and three battalions formed mainly from the former Rhodesian security forces. The planners will then take stock of the number of former guerrillas still to be incorporated.

The accelerated integration programme, which started earlier this month, calls for the formation of three battalions a month. This is likely to test severely the resources of the British advisory team.

## Botha hopes hinge on nominations for poll

From Nicholas Ashford Johannesburg, Jan 29

Nomination day for the April general election, set for March 28, is seen by observers in Johannesburg as being almost as important as the election itself.

With a large majority for the ruling National Party already assured, the main point to be decided by the election will be the political balance within the party's caucus.

Until recently the Verkrampptes (conservatives) slightly outnumbered the Verligtes (reformists), which was why, it is said, Peter Botha, the Prime Minister, was constrained from pushing ahead with his moderately reformist policies affecting Coloureds and urban blacks.

By holding an election in April, he hopes of swinging the balance in the caucus in his favour.

Nomination of candidates takes place on a provincial and not a national level. The Verligtes fear that in the Transvaal, the biggest and most conservative of the four provinces, the provincial leader, Dr. Andries Treurnicht, the Minister of State Administration, may try to ensure the nomination of Verkramppte candidates where possible.

As virtually all National Party candidates in the Transvaal are certain to be elected, the Government means that Mr. Botha would still find himself confronted by a powerful right-wing group within the caucus after the election.

However, Dr. Treurnicht is himself being challenged by Mr. Jaap Marais, the leader of the extreme right-wing Herstigte Nasionale Party, who has announced that he will contest Dr. Treurnicht's Waterburg seat. Dr. Treurnicht, who therefore seeks another constituency, will be standing again for Parliament. Her constituents feared the might-decide to retire this year.

## 'Keystone Cops' regime wins some confidence from bankers

## Sergeants begin to learn how to run Liberia

By Gregory Jaynes Monrovia

It has been nine months since 17 non-commissioned officers in the Liberian Army rose up from their tumbledown, tin-on-tin barracks on a beach below the Executive Mansion, shot and bayoneted President William Tolbert and took over the Government without a shot.

If it weren't for the bloodshed and the enormous economic problems, Mr. Amos Dawson, the dean of Liberia College, said recently, "you could characterize a lot of what has happened as amusing."

Moreover, a high civilian official in the new revolutionary Government said: "To escape, you have to regard a lot of what goes on as comic."

The man who became Liberia's leader after the coup, the twentieth head of state that the nation has had since it was founded by freed American slaves in 1847, is Master Sergeant Samuel Doe, who has a secondary-school education and was trained two years ago by a United States special forces unit.

He became Liberia's chief executive on April 12 last year, not because he aspired to the job, but merely because he was the ranking officer involved in Tolbert's assassination. Sergeant Doe, seven lower-ranking sergeants, eight corporals and two privates became the Government of Liberia, known as the People's Redemption Council.

The soldiers gave as their reasons for the coup more than a century of domination by the descendants of the freed slaves who set up the oldest republic in Africa, corrupted by the Tolbert Government and economic deprivation of the 1.3 million Liberians at the hands of the 90,000 American-Liberians.

bloody riots over an increase in the price of rice.

The 28-year-old, modest head of state eschewed his predecessor's West German limousine, first in favour of a Chevrolet and later a Honda Civic. His illiterate wife, Nancy, the mother of his two children, started bringing hot lunches to his office.

The learning process began. First the soldiers, most of them in their 20s, learnt that the Government had \$5m in the central bank and that it owed \$700m in foreign debts. A former Finance Minister under Tolbert, an adviser to the revolutionary Government before leaving to live in the United States, endeavoured to explain delicately to the sergeant that he had to raise the price of postage stamps.

Initially, Sergeant Doe held to his promise to freeze prices. Exasperated, the financial adviser finally said: "You don't sign this paper, country go broke." The sergeant signed. Petrol prices have doubled, to more than \$2 a gallon.

For a while it seemed to Liberia's educated elite that the country was being run by the "Keystone Cops." The head of state threatened the national soccer team with imprisonment if it did not win a match with Gambia. The match ended in a tie.

About 700 civil servants were jailed but most were freed within a few days and charged \$3.50 for each day of their incarceration, \$3.50 for a light bulb and \$5 for water.

Corporals used their guns instead of their tongues to resolve arguments. A vast although undisclosed number of skilled Liberians emigrated. The military took over many of the smart houses in Monrovia. They took the screens off the windows of the house that had belonged to Charles Cecil Dennis, the former Foreign Minister, who had been executed.

The next-door neighbour asked why. "To let the chickens in, of course," a corporal said. The People's Redemption Council wrecked so many cars that it had to impose a rule on itself: wreck one and the Government buys you a replacement; wreck two and you buy your own.



Master Sergeant Doe: More aware of his responsibilities.

that it had to impose a rule on itself: wreck one and the Government buys you a replacement; wreck two and you buy your own.

In the latest incident, the newly promoted lieutenant Colonel Fallah Varney, aged 23, secretary-general of the council, was killed this week in a car crash.

Ever so slowly, though, the Redemption Council appears to be learning how to govern. "They have learnt what they don't know," said a bank manager who asked that his name and his nationality not be disclosed. Diplomats say that Sergeant Doe has become much more aware of his responsibilities, that he is asserting himself more and that he has cut back the instances in which soldiers get out of line.

Moreover, western diplomats say, the sergeant himself at last has a grasp of how tenuous Liberia's economy is, although not much of an idea of how to stabilize it beyond seeking loans.

The nation's monthly revenue, mostly from iron ore and rubber, is about \$17m. Its monthly expenditures are about \$30m, including \$7m in debt repayments. Last month Liberia barely avoided bankruptcy with a hastily assembled United States emergency grant of \$7m.

This month four foreign banks managed to put together a \$4m loan to get the Government over the hump.

To his credit, Sergeant Doe has taken some steps that have brought him a degree of confidence from international bankers. He has asked Government agencies that they cannot ask for any additional money.

He has also frozen Government hiring. This month, the Government will start making deductions for mandatory national savings bonds from the salaries of employees. The bonds are expected to raise a quick \$50m. They are to be paid back to the employees, with interest, in five years. The policies helped persuade the International Monetary Fund to provide Liberia with \$85m.

Sergeant Doe reportedly said that he would like nothing better than to return Liberia to civilian rule, but that he wanted to pull the country out of its economic mess first.

"I want you to talk to the master sergeant," Mr. George Boley, executive assistant to the head of state, said to an American correspondent recently. "I want you to see we are not nincompoops. And I want you to see the barracks. The reason the soldiers are in town is they don't want to be in the barracks. No water at all or muddy water. Their children have diarrhoea."

As it turned out, Sergeant Doe had a cold. When a journalist got into his office, tape recorder in hand, the sergeant said: "Cut the tape. Cut it." Then he explained that he would like to chat for two hours, but felt too ill to talk for one minute. The interview was over. —New York Times News Service.

## Assam oil resumes flowing to all India

From Trevor Fishlock Delhi, Jan 29

The blockade of Assamese oil has been ended after 13 months. The restoration of supplies to the rest of India seems to mark a significant change in Assam's troubled social and political climate.

The stopping of oil supplies was the most important and damaging of the sanctions applied by student agitators in their long struggle against the central Government.

Other raw materials, like jute and timber, were stopped from leaving Assam, in a virtual rebellion by the students against the Delhi Government.

The trouble came to a head when the Assamese demanded that Bengali immigrants into their state should be repatriated, claiming that they were being swamped by the newcomers. But their campaign against the people they have always termed "foreigners" also has its roots in a number of grievances. For many years the Assamese have felt themselves neglected by the central Government.

The agitation attracted widespread public support in the state last year and led to violence and bloodshed. Disorder and the loss of oil supplies (Assam provides more than a third of India's domestic oil production) created a problem for the Government.

The Government has avoided direct confrontation with the agitators and has sought to bring the trouble to an end through talks and by allowing the passage of time to cool the agitation.

An army operation last November to flush stagnating oil out of pipelines running from the Assamese oil fields to a refinery in Bihar state was carried out successfully and without violence.

Now thousands of oil field employees have been persuaded to go back to work. They have been warned that they are risking their jobs.

The political atmosphere is, however, still unsettled.

## South African troops 'posing as terrorists'

By David Spanier Diplomatic Correspondent

South African military operations in southern Angola are not only being carried out by regular forces, but also by covert units posing as guerrillas. The undercover attacks were aimed against the local population as much as Swapo.

Reports by a British mercenary, who claimed to have taken part in terrorist action with the covert South African forces, were given on ITV last night and in The Guardian.

Rejecting the reports as an attempt to commercialize a fabricated story, the South African Embassy in London said last night that no value could be attached to the allegations.

The policy of South African Defence Forces, it was stated, was to avoid Angolan troops and civilians, while tracking down and eliminating Swapo gangs based in Angola. Angolan forces had been repeatedly warned of the consequences, if they became involved in clashes, the embassy said.

While not commenting directly on the reports, the Foreign Office said that the British Government continued to urge restraint on all sides. "We cannot condone any such

activities by South African forces in Angola and we of course condemn any such activities by mercenaries", a statement said. The reports emphasized the urgent need to reach a negotiated settlement on Namibia.

"One-sided report": A South African military spokesman said he was not prepared to attach any value or even comment on the allegations of the self-acknowledged deserter, who is obviously trying to commercialize on these allegations.

While conceding that South Africa crossed the Angolan border during follow-up or hot pursuit operations, he said that these actions were aimed against Swapo and not the Angolans.

South Africa had repeatedly stated that it was not at war with Angola and tried to avoid Angolan troops while tracking down Swapo, he said. It was strange that the television company responsible for the report was prepared to transmit "such a one-sided report while the whole world was aware of the murders, landmine explosions and kidnappings of innocent and unarmed people in Ovambo".

## Flood toll rises above 120 at Laingsburg

Cape Town, Jan 29 — Mr P. W. Botha, the Prime Minister, flew to Laingsburg today to survey the damage caused by Monday's flood and watch the relief efforts.

The trip came as another body was recovered, bringing the known death toll to 15 people. Another 105 people are missing and believed to be dead.

Mr. Botha, met by town officials — UPI.

## Train drops into river killing 11

East London, South Africa, Jan 29 — A passenger train which jumped the tracks at it passed over a bridge early today, plunged into the shallow Kei river, in Cape Province, killing at least 11 people and injuring more than 100. All the victims were black.

Ten hours after the crash rescue workers were still trying to release passengers — UPI.

## Nigerian MPs screened by riot police

From Our Correspondent Lagos, Jan 29

A special joint session of the Nigerian Parliament began in Lagos today with strict security. Armed guards ringed the building blocking access and riot police were reported to be screening the legislators inside.

This came after scenes of violence and unparliamentary behaviour yesterday when the joint sitting was first attempted. It has been convened to resolve radical differences between the Senate and the House of Representatives over President Shagari's revenue allocation Bill. This seeks to establish new principles on which all revenue is to be divided between the Federal Government, the 19 state governments and more than 300 local governments.

## Black workers forfeit jobs in strike over pensions

From Our Own Correspondent Johannesburg, Jan 29

About 1,500 black workers at the Firestone factory in Port Elizabeth have lost their jobs as a result of a strike over pensions.

The management said they had dismissed themselves because they failed to turn up for two shifts yesterday and one this morning. In an ultimatum issued yesterday, the company said that workers who did not report for duty would be considered to have resigned. Only about 30 turned up.

The workers, who started their strike at the beginning of this week, have refused to accept their dismissal, and have gathered for the past two days on wasteland outside the plant.

The dispute was sparked off by opposition to new pensions

legislation proposed by the government, under which employees may not withdraw their pension money until they are aged 65.

Yesterday the government exempted Firestone from the proposed legislation, but the workers say they will not go back until their pension money has been paid. The earliest that can take place is February 11. "We do not trust either the government or the management," Mr. Welcome Vambi, leader of the workers' negotiating committee said.

Other grievances include pay differentials between unskilled white and semi-skilled black workers and dissatisfaction with the Haysom committee composed of workers and management which the workers have rejected as a "stooge" organization.

## Inquiry demanded into lost ferry

Jakarta, Jan 29 — Indonesian members of Parliament have called for an investigation into the sinking of the ferry Tampomas II, which went down on Tuesday with the loss of more than 400 passengers and crew.

There have been accusations of corruption, lack of safety measures and incompetence in the rescue operation.

The call came after officials admitted that the ship was unable to send any distress signals when it caught fire in the Java Sea two days before sinking. Mr. Rusmin Nuryadin, the Minister for Communications was also urged to resign.

The Tampomas II sent no distress signals until another ship belonging to the Pelnit National Shipping Company arrived on the scene by chance only seven hours before it sank.

Latest official figures said that 669 people had been rescued. A further 457 were said to be either dead or missing, but critics believe that this figure could be much higher because of the alleged practice of some Pelnit officials of selling unauthorized tickets and rocketing the fares, with the

result that ships are loaded far beyond the permitted maximum capacity.

Other doubts were raised over the purchase of the 6,139-ton ship seven months ago for \$3.3m (\$3.3m) from the Japanese Komodo Marine company, which MPs alleged had declared it unfit for use.

Questions were asked in Parliament when the Tampomas II had engine trouble on its first voyage under the Indonesian flag after it had been bought for Pelnit by the Merchant Fleet Development Agency (Pannu).

The controversy over the sinking was increased by a newspaper report that the captain of the Tampomas II had warned officials his ship was being overworked.

The newspaper Sinar Harapan reported that Captain Abdul Rival said in an interview before the disaster that the Pelnit Company maintained the ship in bad condition and ran it too hard.

"Although I complained, Pelnit management kept on pushing to have the journey concluded in eight days," Captain Rival said.

Pelnit officials rejected the charges and said the ship was in perfect condition at the moment the accident occurred.

The search for survivors of the sinking was called off today because of monsoon storms. "With such bad weather, we now have only very little hope to find any more survivors," a spokesman for the search operation said.

First reports from the survivors indicated that the fire broke out early on Monday on the lower deck and quickly spread to the engine room. The ship was 200 miles from Ujung Pandang, the nearest port and its destination.

Bad weather hampered rescue operations and hundreds of passengers remained on board. On Tuesday an explosion ripped through the ship and the fire spread.

Two passengers said the crew distributed life jackets and people began jumping overboard as the heat became intolerable. "A large number of people must have perished in the fire or because of the heat and smoke which became progressively unbearable," a member of the crew said. —Agence France-Presse, UPI.

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## FOREIGN REPORT

## Violence from the right and left terrorizes Guatemala

Once a day on average, a death threat is telephoned to Señor Vicio Cerezo, secretary-general of the left-wing Guatemalan Christian Democratic Party, and to his wife and their four children.

Señor Cerezo, party leader since 1976, rarely leaves his home in a working class district of Guatemala City. Three bodyguards, armed with pistols, stand by his side. Other armed men take the children to school and stay with them until they are safely home again.

Since last May 27 the opposition parties in Guatemala have, as Señor Cerezo calmly puts it, "lost 39 prominent officials", all of them murdered.

On August 28 last year, Señor Sergio Cornelio Sánchez Roche, the mayor of the Pacific port of Champerico, drove into an ambush on the road to Retalhuleu.

Twenty-five bullet holes were counted in his body after the gunman had left him for dead, but Señor Sánchez Roche survived and went back to work on November 3, minus an eye.

Within a matter of days the mayor had received a letter congratulating him on his recovery. There was a postscript, which read: "If within 48 hours of receiving this warning you still have not resigned as mayor, we'll visit you again and the time there will be no escape."

It was signed "PGT", the initials of the communist Guatemalan Workers' Party. Señor Sánchez Roche is still in office.

Further José María Ruiz Furlan is parish priest of the San José de Bethancourt church in Zone 5, one of the poorest districts of Guatemala City.

He stood for the office of city mayor in 1974 and 1978 and claims he was cheated out of victory on both occasions. Early last year his brother, José Fernando, a colonel in the Guatemalan Army was assassinated, "because," Father Ruiz Furlan says, "he knew too much."

A priest, a short, dark-haired man in yet another regular recipient of threats against his life, he says. Every time he steps into the street he wears a disguise.

Many people are willing to

express their views on who is doing all the killing. Few are prepared to go on record.

In 1980 alone, right-wing terrorists killed an estimated 2,000 people, while terrorism from the left, going back about 20 years, continued unabated. Rightists will sometimes kill a dozen people at a time while the left carefully picks its targets.

One of them, Mario Rivas Montecinos, conservative editor of the daily newspaper *El Imparcial* was shot dead on August 5 apparently in reprisal for the deaths of left-wing journalists.

The right blames international communism for trying to overthrow the government of General Romeo Lucas García, in power since 1978. But any body who criticizes the Government is inevitably dubbed a communist and is therefore exposed to danger from the "country's death squads".

The overwhelming anti-communism in Guatemala's government and business circles goes back to 1954, when the United States helped to oust the reformist government of President Jacobo Arbenz Guzmán, who had encouraged the growth of peasant and worker unions and was, as a result, branded a communist.

The fear of communism has grown since the triumph of the Sandinista revolution in nearby Nicaragua in July, 1979.

The man installed in Señor Arbenz Guzmán's place was Colonel Carlos Castillo Armas, who ordered the killing of the Communist Party's deposed President.

There are eight parties registered in Guatemala. The Communist Party is outlawed. The

dent's followers and the breaking of by such parties as the National Liberation Movement which says it stands for "organized violence".

"We are very limited in what we can do," said Señor Carlos Morales, secretary-general of the moderate United Revolutionary Front. "If we hold meetings, they (the right) think we are acting subversively, so people are terrified to work with us."

Señor Morales said many people believe the only way to achieve change is by force of arms. He said that many people with the mental capacity to help the country to progress had been killed. It would take years to replace them.

He added: "I don't think it's a matter of communism against anti-communism. It's a struggle by the right to defend its interests."

Guatemala, the most advanced Central American country industrially and in terms of agricultural progress, is populated by 7.2 million people, 50 per cent of them indigenous.

It is in the Indian communities where the four principal guerrilla groups are operating with the greatest effect. The four are: the Guerrilla Army of the Poor; the Organization of People in Arms; the Rebel Armed Forces; and the military faction of the Guatemalan Workers' Party.

Señor Jorge García Granados, private secretary of President Lucas García and general secretary of the Revolutionary Party, said in an interview: "I would say the extreme left motivated all this violence. The extreme right, not wanting to lose its position, has reacted violently. In the middle are the majority of the people in Guatemala... there is a lot to change in Guatemala, economically, socially and politically. We have changed over the years and we are trying to find solutions."

But leading government officials always deny the Government is linked to right-wing terrorism, although, as one man close to the President said: "It makes no sense for us (the Government) to destroy the extreme right. By doing so we would only leave ourselves exposed for a leftist takeover."

Stephen Downer



## Israel switches from shekels to dollars

At a modest Valley Beach restaurant on the shores of Lake Kinneret, tourists arriving to sample the local speciality of fresh St. Peter's fish are surprised to find that the menu prices are quoted only in American dollars rather than Israel's own Biblically-inspired currency, the shekel.

The same embarrassing trend is noticeable in every part of the country. In Jerusalem, it is now the practice for domestic employees to insist on being paid in dollars, while in Tel Aviv, jewelry shops, art galleries, bars, restaurants and luxury hotels all quote prices in foreign currency.

At the same time, an increasing number of Israeli companies are finding it impractical to continue keeping their books in shekels. The managing director of one large Tel Aviv-based electronics firm which recently switched all its accounts to dollars said:

"Using Israeli currency was like trying to find our way in the dark. All financial information, balance sheets, budgets and investment analyses had lost their meaning."

Switching from shekels to dollars is just one of many methods—both legal and illegal—being used by long-suffering Israeli citizens to cope with a rate of inflation which last year averaged 130 per

cent. One result was to increase the purchase of foreign currency by a third in the last quarter of 1980.

Living with a monthly inflation rate higher than that experienced by many European countries in year can have bizarre effects. One of the most damaging is to alter drastically normal consumer expectations, and thus further fuel the inflation.

Israelis have become so accustomed to price rises that their reaction on hearing of an increase is often to stock up on the product. Their expectation—unhappily almost always correct—is that its value will soon increase again," an Israeli economist said.

Among the commonest ways of coping with what one newspaper recently described as "hyper-inflation" are the extensive use of post-dated cheques (recent statistics showed that one in every 10 Israeli cheques bounced), moonlighting, refusing to keep cash or current bank accounts and excessive purchases of durable consumer goods.

A perplexed American commentator recently noted that Israeli shops were doing a roaring trade in colour televisions—which, because of local taxes, retail at around £1,500 a

set—although the Israel Broadcasting Corporation has not yet received permission to transmit regularly in colour.

The reason for the rush was that the sets were seen as a hedge against future price rises. Apartments are also seen as good investments and they can cost up to three times the cost of equivalent accommodation in Britain.

Israel's runaway inflation has been accompanied by regular depreciation of the shekel (last year its value slumped 114 per cent in relation to the dollar), and a rash of jokes similar to the kind of wartime humour which blossomed during the Blitz.

Of the many inflation-related stories circulating, the current favourite concerns the relative cost of taking a bus or taxi to work. The same journey, it is said, costs 300 per cent in the case of the taxi, but only 100 per cent in the case of the bus.

Which is cheaper? The taxi, replies the inflation-scarred Jerusalemite, "because with the bus, the fare has to be paid right away."

But despite the financial hardships and political demoralization of living with an inflation rate which is a sign of being uncontrollable, Israeli citizens are protected by the most sophisticated form of index-linking developed anywhere.

Government's response to the public outcry that followed. The commission is supposed to produce its report later this year.

Although Mr Kent has stipulated that "nobody is on trial" at the public hearings, it has been open season on the chains from the beginning. The feelings of the public are probably intensified by the realization that there is little likelihood of the *Journal* and the *Tribune* being brought back to life, no matter what the commission recommends.

A former editor of *The Ottawa Journal*, Mr I. Norman Smith, denounced what he called the "bare-faced big business manipulations" of Thomson and Southern, and suggested that freedom of the press had been sacrificed as a result of their "deeds and dealings".

A New Democratic Party member of the Ontario legislature, Mrs Evelyn Gigantes, told the commission that executives of the two powerful newspaper groups "would be in gaol" if Canada had enforceable anti-combines laws. (A separate anti-combines investigation into the newspapers' closings is under way.)

The commission has heard suggestions that the government should establish a fund of loans to help ailing newspapers. Both the *Journal* and the *Tri-*

but the product of hard-bargaining by the Histadrut, the centralized trade union body, the system means that among those payments directly linked to the cost of living index are wages, savings, pensions, welfare insurance, government issued bonds and even rates of income tax.

Until recently, the system was regarded as sufficient to cushion most Israelis against the worst ravages of spiralling prices and a constantly eroding currency. But in the past three months there have been ominous signs that inflation has been increasing at such a pace that the linking has been unable to keep pace.

Matters will get worse if, as predicted by Professor Ezra Sadeh, head of the Treasury planning unit, inflation exceeds 300 per cent inside the next 12 months unless there is a radical change in economic policy.

Political observers regard index linking as the main reason why Israel's democratic institutions have so far survived three-figure inflation unscathed. But economists single it out as the main reason why all efforts to get Israeli inflation under control have failed so conspicuously.

Christopher Walker

## Law Report January 29 1981

## Oil refinery nuisance: private Act a defence

*Allen v Gulf Oil Refining Ltd* Before Lord Wilberforce, Lord Diplock, Lord Edmund-Davies, Lord Keith of Kinkaid and Lord Roskill

Where a private Act of Parliament authorized a multi-national oil company to acquire specific land for the purpose of constructing a refinery, the company could rely on the Act as statutory authority by way of a defence to any proceedings for nuisance arising from the operation of the refinery, but only so far as the nuisance could be shown to be the inevitable result of erecting and operating a refinery.

The House of Lords, Lord Fraser dissenting, so held on a preliminary point of law in allowing an appeal from the Court of Appeal (the Master of the Rolls and Lord Denning MR dissenting, Lord OB 156), which had held in favour of Mrs Elsie May Allen, of Watlington, Oxfordshire, who claimed that the construction of a refinery on the Gulf Oil Refining Act, 1965, a private Act, as having authorized the construction and operation of the refinery, was a defence to any proceedings for nuisance arising from the operation of the refinery, but only so far as the nuisance could be shown to be the inevitable result of erecting and operating a refinery.

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of fact on principles of law which themselves were flexible. There were too many variables to admit of a clear cut solution in advance.

Both sides accepted that the question raised by the case was one of principle, and had endeavoured to recast it to give a workable indication of what was needed—a direction of law on which a clear judgment could be made. The recent formulation of the issue was whether Gulf Oil could rely on the Act as having authorized the construction and operation of the refinery, but only so far as the nuisance could be shown to be the inevitable result of erecting and operating a refinery.

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Mr. Tebbitt: I understand that I did not want a lecture from you, but it seems that he needed it. During the course of the questioning he has begun to modify his attitude and to accept that there will be as welcome as Ford Vauxhall if we can secure it.

No jobs are permanent. No jobs are guaranteed. They depend upon the customer.

After the statement had been made in the House of Commons

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, questioned earlier about redundancies at Talbot, Coventry said that where there was considerable overmanning, might be that a firm had to reduce its labour force to stay efficient.

She said that penetration of

That makes it clear (she said) that there is a big market for cars in Britain. I hope that more and more companies that produce cars in Britain will fill that market with their products.

The optimistic aim of about 1.3m tonnes of sugar which was going to be produced from sugar beet in the

He said dual registration was based on property rights and constituted an outrage upon the democratic and political rights of citizens with only one home.

This was a short Bill to remedy a serious defect in the law of the voting rights of British citizens. The present state of the law gave

the Crown Agents concerning the loss of £200m of public funds. Mr Timothy Raisin, Minister of State, said in a written reply: Up to January 27 the tribunal has heard evidence on 254 days; it has added it has in principle 74 decisions. 31 witness have been here when the current case

unfair and unjust advantages to a resident or the city, might cause some confusion as to what the City's position is regarding the proposed rezoning.

**House of Commons**  
Today at 9.30: Private Members' Bill  
Indecent Displays (Control) Bill  
Second reading.

The Social Security (Contributions) Act received Royal assent.

Common thread running through the reports of the Public Accounts Committee in the last session of Parliament was the all-party desire to pursue the most effective and efficient way of spending the large sums of public money conferred; and to ensure the best possible way of spending it. The chairman of the committee, said, opening a debate on the committee

**Sir Geoffrey Howe**, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said that during consultations on tax changes with the North Sea oil industry would be doing everything possible to bring a right balance between promoting investment and giving fair reward to investors.

**Sir Geoffrey Howe** (East Surrey) indicated that consultations with the industry were in progress and were likely to continue some time.

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be:

**Monday:** Education Bill and Insurance Companies Bill, second readings.

**Tuesday:** Debate on Opposition motion on poverty.

**Wednesday:** Industry Bill, remaining stages.

**Thursday:** Debate on the economic situation.

**Friday:** Private Members' Bills:

Earl Jellicoe, chairman of Tate and Lyle, put forward two alternatives which were accepted, but he would save the company from having to close its Liverpool refinery. He was speaking in a debate on the consequences of the closure for the continued access of raw cane sugar from Commonwealth countries.

He said that if at this late hour it was possible for the original United Kingdom beet sugar quota of 936,000 tons proposed by the EEC Commission to be accepted, there would be no need to close the refinery.

United Kingdom had had revised.

The present United Kingdom quota under the European Community sugar regime was 1,150,000 tonnes and the Government prepared to accept a sub-quota of 1.1 million tonnes in return for all other states on a variable basis.

The minister had indicated in a satisfactory settlement would accept a United Kingdom quota of 1.15m tonnes which would be the United Kingdom's long potential.

The optimistic aim of about 1.3m tonnes of sugar which was going to be produced from sugar beet in the











## THE ARTS

## Enigmatic combination of intellect and sentiment

Loulou (X)  
Camden Plaza

The Jazz Singer (A)  
ABC Shaftesbury Av

My Bodyguard (A)  
Studio Oxford Circus;  
Plaza 2;  
Odeon, Kensington

The Lady in Red (X)  
London Pavilion

"Carry on Cripple"  
National Film Theatre

Although *L'enfance nue* and *La guele ouverte* were shown at London Festivals, and the latter appeared in the BBC film *International series*, *Loulou* is the first film by Maurice Pialat to have a commercial release here. To give us a quick run-down on the career of this former painter, occasional actor and (since the age of 40) director, the NFT is presenting next week a complete retrospective of the six films he has made since 1968.

They characteristically deal with the dramatic moments in the lives of unremarkable people: an unwanted child (*L'enfance nue*), a failing affair (*Nous ne vieillirons pas ensemble*), a woman dying of cancer (*La guele ouverte*). If Pialat's slices of life are small, he probes them very deep; and his most remarkable quality is to give to his actors—whether they are non-professionals or knowing performers like Isabelle Huppert and Gérard Depardieu in *Loulou*—the unpredictability of improvisation (though Pialat in fact never improvises) and the innocence of self-awareness of everyday life.

*Loulou* is a film about class, though the distinctions are observed not primarily at an economic level but in the areas

of intellect and sentiment. Loulou is a big, beery, oafish layabout; but he offers a middle-class girl (Huppert) uninhibited, uncomplicated and non-stop sex which is beyond the possibilities of her preoccupied, bourgeois, rationalizing boyfriend (Guy Marchand). She moves in with Loulou, even though it is she who must pay for their shabby hotel room.

As the affair drags on through tiffs, accidents, encounters, interruptions, infidelities, a visit to the country and Loulou's family roots, the relationship is subtly illuminated.

At first Loulou appears only as a sloop, a working-class male chauvinist, wielding his sex like a whip to dominate the girl. By the end of the film we see how he is the vulnerable one, unprotected and uncomprehending. After meeting his family, with all their recklessness, impetuosity, passive kindness, unpredictability, the girl aborts the baby for which, with his naive parental instinct, he yearns. She is beyond his understanding. It is hard to know whether to see optimism or defeat in the final scene, as Huppert helps a dead drunk Loulou back home to bed.

If it was a dubious notion in the first place to remake *The Jazz Singer* (the 1953 version with Danny Thomas should have been ample warning) it was an even bigger mistake to update it to 1980. Samson Raphaelson's original play of 1925 was suggested by the early life of Al Jolson. In 1927, when it was first filmed, the issues which motivated the plot—the problems of Jewish immigrants trying to integrate into American society, the opposition of the new life in the new land to the old racial and religious traditions—were still fairly close to the memory.

In 1980 though it all seems part of a long-ago past; the singer's sense of guilt is barely comprehensible and the lack of a more old cantor who rends his garments because his son goes off to showbiz and a *shiksa* girl is as anachronistic as Rip Van Winkle. It makes matters no more credible when the old man recollects tearfully how Momma (remember—the one in the original she was the one to

whom the screen's first spoken words were addressed) was gunned down by terrorists somewhere or other.

Maybe the story does not really matter any more, since it is really only a device for one Jojo Neil Diamond concert. But there is another thing: surely the question of trade description enters into calling the film *The Jazz Singer*, since, whatever else he is, Neil Diamond is not that. He is what is called in the business (I believe) MOR, or middle-of-the-road between rock and pop. He has developed a sort of family-style rock, with the rough edges removed so that mums and dads (and even weepy old cantors, with a little persuasion) can clap along.

As a screen personality Neil Diamond is pleasant—not very glamorous or good-looking but amiable and smart enough (under Richard Fleischer's direction) not to stray outside the small range of what he can do as an actor. The real acting is left to Lord Olivier, doing one of his favourite ethnic impersonations and smart enough (under Richard Fleischer's direction) not to stray outside the small range of what he can do as an actor. The real acting is left to Lord Olivier, doing one of his favourite ethnic impersonations and smart enough (under Richard Fleischer's direction) not to stray outside the small range of what he can do as an actor.

Ironically, if there is one scene that works in this oddity, it is the one that comes straight from the original—the shameless tear-jerker sequence where the singer returns to the synagogue to sing the *Kol Nidre* in place of his sick father. I hope that Samson Raphaelson, who wrote the original, collected handsomely for the use of his title and his tears.

Tony Bill was a pleasant juvenile actor, a clever producer (*The Sting* was his film) and now emerges as a sympathetic director with *My Bodyguard*. It is a sweet, sentimental film, even though it is at bottom no more than a yarn from a schoolboy comic, about the new boy who befriends the school loner, and how after various adventures they worst the school bully. It is the class from a sign of terror.

Within the limits of the story, though, the children are vividly characterized. The hero (Chris Makepeace) is a bright,



Isabelle Huppert and Gérard Depardieu in *Loulou*

It was directed in 1979 by Lewis Teague, who had previously worked as an assistant director—most recently he was on Sam Fuller's *The Big Red One*. A very speculative version of the betrayal and shooting of John Dillinger, it thrusts its heroine (a convincing performance by Pamela Sue Martin, a graduate of television soap opera) through a series of typical New World trials—depression-era poverty, unemployment, drift into crime, women's prison, where-house, bank robbery. It has also the New World virtues of vitality and speed; and the impressionistic representation of the period enforced by limited finance is more effective than the costly artwork of many a more pretentious film.

As its contribution to the International Year of Disabled People, the National Film Theatre is presenting a season called "Carry on Cripple" and it is the title of this season's first film, *My Bodyguard*, which is to be examined. The content is disabilities: humans displayed as objects, turned into freaks and victims, senseless beings, pitiful bodies, superhuman heroes or just bitter, resentful people. This season considers the point that anything that treats cripples primarily as cripples debumanizes them.

The films range from *The Best Years of Our Lives* to *Freaks*; from *The Men* and *The Miracle Worker* to *The Funchuck of Notre Dame*, *Moulin Rouge*, *The Incredible Shrinking Man*, and *Whichever Hopped to Baby Jane*. Of all the films, only one, *Steve Dworkin's* own *Behind the Mask*, was actually conceived and directed by a disabled person. It is a cool, powerful film, an unsparing and unflinching examination of a relationship between a disabled man—played by Dworkin—and an able-bodied woman.

David Robinson

## LMP/Elder Festival Hall/Radio 3

## Stanley Sadie

It was sad on Wednesday to see the London Mozart Players, who under Harry Blech have been among the last to sit with first and second violins on opposite sides—the correct way for the repertoire they mainly play—come into line with everyone else under their new principal guest conductor, Mark Elder. If we looked in that for a spectacular improvement in ensemble we can go on looking.

Curiously enough, they began with a piece depending largely on spatial effects, one of the Handel double concertos. Here the antiphony is between wind bands. Mr Elder duly posted his horns, oboes and bassoons to the back corners, and the effects came off well enough, though the music itself hardly did: first, because the horn parts proved just as demanding as the (otherwise rather inane) programme note said they were; second because his over-detailed, over-sustained playing serves Handel indifferently. The music needs broader, sturdier rhythms.

Still, it was good to hear the LMP expanding their repertoire. They played a symphony by C. P. E. Bach, music of great boldness and originality. Some of that originality was blunted by the cautious tempos and the want of urgency, not only in the brilliant arpeggios and passages

work of the first movement (where, incidentally, antiphony between firsts and seconds is composed into the music); but also in the Largo, an extraordinary piece where the yawning gap of two octaves between flute and solo viola and cello sounds so remarkable. The yarn was there, but not much else.

Nor was Beethoven's eighth symphony quite as interesting as it ought to be. Mr Elder knows how to establish a strong, steady rhythm, and how to build a true Beethovenian tension; and he had a properly, pleasantly wind-heavy balance. But this is a score full of incident, and his unwillingness to make anything interpretatively of its individuality, its colour, its oddities, made him seem rigid and unobservant, which we know from the opera house he is not. It would help if he sometimes took a breath, at least momentary cadences. In Mozart's K271 concerto too Mr Elder conducted in plain, business-like fashion. Alfred Brendel played coolly, limpidly, in a slightly matter-of-fact manner at first; but the C minor Andantino drew him out, and he phrased those dark, encrusted lines richly and lovingly. Best of all was the minuet within the finale; for although the running quavers at the beginning and the end of the movement were once again more quavery than rousing, the central episode had a lot of ease and elegance that showed unmistakably the potential identity of the ornamental and the expressive.

## Orpheus Ensemble St John's

## Paul Griffiths

Sandwiched between suites by Stravinsky, the last of the Orpheus Ensemble's short season of three concerts offered on Wednesday an intriguing confrontation of master and pupil. On one side was Hugh Wood embracing the violently personal rhetoric of Neruda's love poetry in translations by Christopher Logue. On the other was his Cambridge apprentice, Dave Nicholls, losing himself looking at the stars. It was a case of being gripped by the passion of going in tranquillity at the circlings of pretty musical objects. Except, of course, that we did not have to make the choice.

The performances did much to heighten the contrast between the two works. Jane Ginsborg sang the Wood cycle as if she knew everything in it from personal experience, rather worrying fact when she was being faced with the cataclysms of emotion that are contained in the text and not wholly civilized by the music.

But then the account of Nicholls's *Ensemble II—Pleasures* was all sweetness and light, though far distant light, and the percussionists who had been so rightly rebellious in the Wood turned their hands no less successfully to making the stars shine.

Notes in the programme suggested we should look in Nicholls's piece for evidence of his research interest in twentieth century American music but I was much more impressed by a kinship with recent Stockhausen. It was "music," utterly innocent and brightly scored for high woodwinds and vibraphones, kept returning with slight modifications like a very simple Stockhausen formula and there were other levels kept quite separate: music of darkness for bass clarinet, cellos and tubas, and a gauzy haze for violins and ringing metal percussion.

The Stravinsky again gained from the feeling of the conductor, Paul Webster, for harmonic clarity, for darkness, for bass clarinet, cellos and tubas, and a gauzy haze for violins and ringing metal percussion.

## London debuts

The recital room is a rather more demanding arena for music than the theatre, and so it seemed unduly brave of the Royal Shakespeare Company London Brass Ensemble to present themselves as a concert group. But they proved themselves well equipped for the test. They are engaging musicians and remarkably versatile ones: apart from the standard brass quintet of trumpet, horns and trombone they can offer themselves as a consort of cornett and sackbuts, and one of the horn players even doubles on the chamber organ. All they need is a snapper name.

Perhaps, though, they need also to adjust the balance of their programme. Devoting the whole first half to seventeenth-century music served mainly to demonstrate how very difficult it is to play the cornetto in tune, and I would much rather have heard them playing Locke's splendid ceremonial music on the modern instruments they took up after the interval.

Not only was the second half easier on the ear, it was also vastly more entertaining. Victor Ewald's short symphony, a glorious piece of Russian romanticism, was judiciously done, and by the trio by a modern Czech Vaclav Nelhybel was puzzling, the ensemble had the opportunity to show off pleasant, undemanding works by two composers associated with the RSC productions. Stephen Oliver provided them with a five-movement suite from his music for *Nicholas Nickleby*, and from Nicholas Bicat, who wrote the score for *The Gracings*, there was a lovely summary quintet in one movement.

Variety and versatility were again key qualities in the recital given by the Gemini Ensemble of Amsterdam, so called because their six members include two pairs of twins from the same family. One might expect, therefore, that they would have few problems in establishing a corporate identity, and indeed their performances had a degree of freshness and youth that survived all the changes of instrumentation: two violins or violas, cello, flute, oboe and

piano were the resources they could all upon giving them access to a vast range of chamber music.

Their account of a Mozart flute quartet was pretty, and Brahms's *A Major Piano Quartet* was more impressive by far. Pieces for the standard formations of strings, woodwinds and piano trio found them entering fully the composer's wistful world, and the *Divertimento a cinque* by Hendrik Andriessen, leaving out the piano, made one wish Bach was around to write something for them, so redolent of that composer was the oblique writing of the central adagio and the fugal business of the outer movements.

The Israeli-Canadian cellist Ofra Harnay also showed herself a personable artist, but I cannot help wishing she had delayed her debut. She is 15, and there can be no doubt that the next few years will see the development of startling promise into mature musicianship. At the moment she is too inclined to rush at expressive meanings, too keen to risk effects that lie at the limits of her technique, and too inexperienced to find something new in the repetition of a phrase. She also needs somebody to warn her away from awful arrangements like Siloti's of Bach's "Adagio in A minor".

The other soloist of the week was the Argentine guitarist Jorge Cappa, who began unpromisingly with a group of baroque pieces, though it was not his fault that the programme leaflet contained so little information that Bach's first lute suite was twice interrupted by misplaced applause. After this unhappy experience he settled down, in a minute by Rameau found him already using the full romantic resources of guitar tone, which he expanded in the remainder of his programme. In a personal ability to contrast plummy sustained notes with dancing figuration, though there was nothing flashy in his performances, even of virtuosic showpieces like Sor's *Grand Solo*.

Paul Griffiths

Some of the reviews on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions



Tim Seely (left), Lesley-Anne Down, David Henry.

vowels, it is very hard to believe that she has lost touch with her roots.

Miss Down moves gracefully in the upper-class world when she arrives there, and there is no doubt that it is her natural environment. She is never as comfortable pretending to say the alphabet with a coarse accent, and that accent is the sound and not the cinematic flow of Miss Coffey's new version.

While the production never sounds right for very long, it usually looks marvellous. Marching the young elegance of the transformed Miss Down is the more mature elegance of Judy Campbell's Mrs Higgins. David Henry makes a youthful, but admirably ruffled Higgins. But surely the point is the sound and not the cinematic flow of Miss Coffey's new version.

## Book review

## Saga of a Wayward Sailor

By Tristan Jones

(Bodley Head, £5.95)

## The Incredible Voyage

By Tristan Jones

(Futura, £1.65)

Tristan Jones is an adventurous Welshman who sails the world and has an engaging way of writing about his voyages. He is the kind of salty seafarer one expects to find in harbour bars, relating tales of lonely oceans although he is apt to defuse dramatic moments with a sudden absurd picture. The opening of his *Saga of a Wayward Sailor* is a good example. His cruising ketch *Cresswell* lies somewhere near the Arctic circle menaced by storm. It developed rapidly, in a matter of hours; from a blow to a howling rage of shifting clouds, rain and wind, and the four cardinal points of the horizon galloped at me like the horsemen of the Apocalypse. And me in the middle of them. Waiting, vulnerable, patient. "Hold on to your hat, old lad, we're going to have some serious sailing."

And off we go on a voyage that meanders from the Arctic down the Norwegian coast and through the Swedish canals. In the Baltic he and his unassuming crew are arrested by the Soviet Navy on suspicion of spying. He rides this setback easily, even profiting from it by polishing up old pennies he had saved to use as washers and selling them to the guard assigned to his boat.

Tristan Jones is a fine teller of tales, an ocean-bound Romany drifting from port to port and bumping into some outrageously improbable characters. There is Sissie, the British country woman complaint who "looked like Florence Nightingale at the storming of the Alma Redoubt," her teeth as strong and white as the cliffs of Dover gleaming through a Channel fog.

Jones certainly ranks among the most travelled sailors. None of his yachts has been more than 100 miles yet some 345,000 sea miles have slid beneath their keels. He has crossed the Atlantic 18 times under sail, nine times alone and his easy, unpretentious way of describing his adventures adds to their fascination.

Not all of them were without an aim. His book *The Incredible Voyage* had a definite objective. He aimed to become the first man to sail the lowest and highest stretches of navigable water in the world. He began with the Dead Sea and then sailed and land-hauled his yacht to the highest waters in the world, Lake Titicaca in Bolivia. The odyssey lasted over six years and involved an improbable crossing of Middle East desert and the Mato Grosso, neither of them regions of easy sailing, but as these two books prove, Tristan Jones is no ordinary yachtsman.

Ronald Faux

## Pygmalion

## Young Vic

## Ned Chaillet

Movies are an industry and books are now a subsidiary industry and that is the natural order of things in the multinational entertainment business. If it is no surprise for a novel to become a play before becoming a film, so leading us back to a "novelization" of the film, then what surprise can there be in Denise Coffey's production of Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion*? It was a preface, a play, a sequence of stage directions, a film and a stage musical and Miss Coffey has turned to the film script to make a nearly new play from the movie.

For those readers inclined to prefer the prefaces, where Shaw discussed the play and the characters in his own words without the tentative disguise of characterization, Miss Coffey's production may be a soothing reward. GBS is woven into the production to introduce it, to describe the scenes which are done without scene, Peter Bogdanovich, Francis Coppola and Monte Hellman.

The chief advantage of the adaptation is that it can focus on the effects of the transformation. Since the learning is a cliché for Eliza, push without tears, it creates the opportunity for an access to comment on the girl's violent removal from her natural environment. Only if Lesley-Anne Down is not allowed to be seen struggling upward from working-class

smoothly stated as it is, the production does not seem odd, or not as odd as it really is. Most significantly, there is no ambiguity in the conclusion, not with Donald Eccles as Shaw to explain how Eliza married Freddy and retained an unusual interest in the career of Henry Higgins. Miss Coffey has also sandpapered away the gruesome learning process so that Eliza's transformation from Covent Garden flower girl to society lady is never unlikely.

The reason usually given for the present neglect is the asininity of Eugene Scribner's plot. The hero of the title was sired by one of Satan's myrmidons upon a daughter of the ducal house of Normandy (Robert was an historical character, related to our William I, though his diabolical paternity was pure gossip). His father, wearing human disguise, accompanied him into ever more socially unacceptable exploits, and magically frustrating his every kindly or humanly desirable action.

To win the hand of the Princess of Messina, he is persuaded to pluck a sacred branch from the tomb of St. Rosalia (patron of musical sequences) in a ruined convent where he is

pursued by a ballet of resurrected naughty nuns who try to seduce him with liquor, gambling and sex. In the end he is saved, and Bertram alias Old Nick descends through a trapdoor into smoke and red lights. Ludicrous it is, but a link between *Robert the Devil* (Meyerbeer's friend Weber) and Gounod's *Faust*. The music sometimes sounds clumsy in articulation, but is full of grand, novel, curiously fascinating stretches, and it can touch or exalt the heart. Meyerbeer's operas fall out of fashion in truth because they were designed for supremely agile and sensitive singers with glorious, not necessarily noisy, voices in an age that abounded in them. Other feats are required of today's great singers who leave the revival of *Robert le diable*

to hold, enthusiastic students, and young professional singers nowhere near the standard enough to dazzle audiences into shouting for a Meyerbeer revival.

At Nottingham this week we are cheering the University Opera Group for attempting the impossible: for Nicholas Till's economical colourful production of what ought to be a lavish spectacle; for Ally Kestel, the conductor who drew steadily built climaxes from student chorus and orchestra; and for some respectable attempts at the impossible: virtuosic roles by good young singers. Lesley-Anne Down, looking and sounding like a prima donna, nothing her ornate music without fretting over the elaborate, florid passages. John Rath gave the half-sympathetic portrayal of the demon Bert that Meyerbeer surely intended, and sang his music with a certain passion, secure at the top in the name part. Rowland Sidel presented a hirsute, blond, leonine giant, imperturbably cheerful, with a ringing dramatic tenor voice.

Meyerbeer never expected his singers to yell, nor did these to excess, though Elizabeth Brice, as Robert's sister, risked her vocal health, in the last act, with over-ambitious boosting of a nice young soprano instrument. I should comment Nottingham for putting on a little of the long five act, but for singers unready for vocal steepclimbing—and their equally untrained audiences.

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**SAAB**



Geoffrey Smith

# The strategy that could stop a third party

The air is full of protestations from those Labour right-wingers who do not intend to leave the party. They are going to "fight, fight and fight again". They are determined to reverse the judgement of Wembley when they get to Brighton in the autumn. They are going to make the Labour Party a home fit for social democrats to live in.

There is no doubt that they mean what they say, but can they do what they promise? In setting about this task they have two principal advantages and one considerable asset. One disadvantage is that the more evidence accumulates of support, or even potential support, for a new party the more right-wingers will drift away from Labour—and every defection will reduce not just the numbers but the spirit of those who remain.

Already the Council for Social Democracy has won the commitment of more MPs than many people had anticipated. Most predictions had suggested that instead of 11 members from the Parliamentary Labour Party the number would be in single figures. There were no last-minute withdrawals and there is the possibility that when the new party goes public at the end of May or early June one or two more MPs may be then on board—and still more if constituency parties run riot in desecrating sitting MPs.

One may expect the names of some hundred supporters for the council to be announced towards the end of next week. There will not be another MP among them, but the list will include a leading figure in local government, as well as others active in that field, and probably a leading trade unionist, with others who play a part in union affairs at regional or local level.

Labour, therefore, faces the danger of a continued seepage from the party in the country, which would reduce the chances of the right fighting back. That danger is increased with the publication of every opinion poll suggesting a bright future for the social democrats, or a social democrat-Liberal alliance, or a new centre party. Whether the assumption of the poll is politically realistic or not, there is none the less the psychological effect.

A still more serious problem for right-wingers hoping to fight back within the party is that they have so often promised to do so before, and have failed to deliver. The forces have not been mobilized effectively. The National Executive Committee have failed because the leadership of a key union has not been able to control its delegation; or the unions have not been pre-

Right-wingers have failed to fight back before, but their forces have not been mobilized effectively

pared to give such priority to the affairs of the Labour Party as to upset the intricate pattern of deals between them covering the industrial as well as the political field, whereby a union will vote for another union's nominee on one committee in return for its own person being backed elsewhere; or there has been a failure of cooperation between the party leadership and sympathetic union leaders.

An example of this occurred in July, 1979. A lunch was held at the Charing Cross Hotel with Mr James Callaghan and most of the moderate leadership of the TUC. In a group of about a dozen there were, apart from such obvious figures as Mr Terry Duffy of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers and Mr Frank Chapple of the electricians, Mr Gerald Eastwood of the pattern-makers, Mr Hector Smith of the blastfurnacemen and Mr Bill Sims of

the steelworkers. Mr Tom Jackson, who would presumably otherwise have been there, was in hospital.

The intention was to seek broad agreement on the agenda for the TUC and Labour Party conference that autumn—which included the issues which have come to plague the party, such as the reselection of MPs and the method of electing the leader. As the lunch proceeded the discussion took a broader turn on the general influence of the left. Mr Callaghan was quite encouraging, but indicated that he did not want to be in alliance with one segment of the party only.

None the less he agreed to attend a dinner with roughly the same group later that month at Dartmouth House, the headquarters of the English-Speaking Union. One change, though, was that, whereas on the first occasion there was a senior representative from the General and Municipal Workers, who said that he would

be reporting back to Mr David Basset, there was nobody from that union for the second gathering.

At the last minute, however, a message came from Mr Callaghan that he was unable to attend. Mr Duffy remarked to the company that he knew where Mr Callaghan was—the significance of this comment becoming apparent when Sir John Boyd, the general secretary of the AUEW, joined them for coffee.

He had been at another dinner, where Mr Callaghan had been with Mr Moss Evans, Mr David Basset and Mr Clive Jenkins. Mr Duffy, having been invited to that dinner as well, had sent Sir John in his place to keep an eye on things, while himself remaining loyal to the first group. At this news there was an explosion of wrath with Mr Callaghan from Mr Chapple and others who took a broader turn on the general influence of the left. Mr Callaghan was quite encouraging, but indicated that he did not want to be in alliance with one segment of the party only.

This episode destroyed confidence between Mr Callaghan and most, though not all, of this group. There were no further collective meetings of that nature and the Evans-Basnett-Jenkins troika failed to deliver for Mr Callaghan. It was not the first time that a party leader had failed to discern who his real friends were among the union leaders.

During the recent leadership election Mr Healey's supporters were eager to portray him as a man of the centre, not the right. Now he

is making more robust statements, but will they be translated into action? Right-wing union leaders, led by Mr Duffy and Mr Roy Grantham of the Association of Professional, Executive and Computer Staff, are seeking at last to change the balance on the NEC at Brighton. Will they now succeed where they have so often failed?

Mr Roy Hattersley has been positively pugnacious outside the conference hall at Wembley and subsequently, but will he and others of like mind, who have been talking together anxiously in recent weeks, go beyond yesterday's statement of broad intent to organize seriously, even if informally, with specific objectives?

On past showing a degree of scepticism is justified in response to all three questions. Yet the right ought to have one big advantage in fighting back: electoral logic is on their side. The obvious strategy for Labour now to pursue is to undermine the new party that seems bound to emerge by itself moving to the right.

Unless it does so it will be giving the social democrats every possible encouragement and the Conservatives every hope that unless they make a complete mess of the economy they will be returned to office at the next election.

## Black journalists in the firing line

Derrick Thema, a black journalist on the Johannesburg Star, describes black reaction to the enforced closure of South Africa's two largest black newspapers.

Far from maintaining order and stability and countering efforts at creating a revolutionary climate in South Africa, the Government's closure of *Post* and the *Sunday Post* has reduced the prospect for peaceful change.

The closure has been received with anger and dismay by blacks who, in a country where all newspapers are white-owned, regarded *Post* as their authentic voice.

*Post*, staffed by a new breed of black journalists who see themselves first as oppressed blacks before being journalists, had invariably supported black consciousness ideas.

As a voice for black consciousness proponents, it provided a healthy platform for the pent-up feelings, the aspirations, the anger and the general thinking of blacks.

The closure of *Post* will widen the communications gap between government and blacks. It will also increase black frustrations.

Coming at a time when the Stevens Commission of inquiry is for hearing evidence about the role of the mass media in South Africa, the Government has destroyed any illusion about maintaining the freedom of the press. With so many laws restricting press freedom already in existence, the opposition English-language press may find itself the next victim of Government action. The message is a terse one: the Government will not hesitate to silence dissidents.

The Government's action against *Post* underlines the belief that only timid blacks will be tolerated.

The closure of *Post* shows the insincerity of the Government's claim that it is working towards a veritable (enlightened) dispensation for blacks.

With the voices of reason already thinning, the Government is unwittingly driving even those blacks who still advocate the politics of accommodation into the militant African National Congress.

Black journalists have increasingly found that their journalistic commitments are indivisible from their political convictions. They no longer accept the concept of "objective reporting". To blacks, objectivity is an outmoded myth.

It is for this reason that the black journalists' union, the Media Workers Association of South Africa (MWASA) has rejected even the white-owned "liberal" newspapers because they operate within the system and "it is impossible under South African law to tell the full story of what blacks feel".

Black journalists have drifted away from traditional journalistic standards. The emphasis has been on advocacy journalism, exposing inequities and enlightening black readers about what is right or wrong.

They now think that it is the duty of black newspapers to lead the community to "total liberation". This entails propounding the black consciousness philosophy.

A black journalist's lot is an unenviable one. He tries to reflect the feelings of the black community, yet cannot report matters of prejudice or brutality without himself getting emotionally involved.

The recent MWASA strike at *Post* and the *Sunday Post* was more than just a labour dispute. It was an expression of anger at unfair labour practices.

Black journalists are products of radicalization caused by the Government's intransigence. The Government has two options—either to silence them completely or hear what they really feel and know. If it will not listen, the Government might as well call off the bluff about working towards a veritable dispensation for blacks.

Michael Binyon

## The growing battle for the countryside

It is hard to judge to what extent the Government foresaw a rough passage for its Wildlife and Countryside Bill. Critics say it knew there would be controversy, and that is why the committee work devoted largely on the House of Lords while the Commons attended to weightier matters. At all events, their lordships have tabled no fewer than 560 amendments, running to 94 pages, which is nine more than the Bill itself.

It falls into two main parts, the first dealing with the protection of birds, animals and plants, the second with the conservation of the countryside. There are long schedules of species which are totally protected or can be killed only at certain times of the year or by certain methods.

For most conservation groups this is the less exceptional part of the Bill, although the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds is concerned about the methods proposed for the issuing of licences to shoot protected species if they can be shown to be damaging crops.

"At present if a farmer shoots a protected bird and is taken to court, he has a defence

in law if he can prove it is a pest," Mr John Parslow, the society's Director of Conservation points out. "We think that is unsatisfactory, and so we are in favour of a licensing system. But we also think there is a danger of blanket licences being issued to shoot, say, Brent geese in a particular area, which would lead to uncertainty and anomalies. For instance people might be able to shoot them in West Sussex and not in East Sussex. We say that licences must be much more strictly defined."

The society also claims that the Bill as it stands does not meet EEC directives on the protection of certain species. One fear, although it diplomatically declines to say so openly, is that if Britain is not seen to be taking a strict line, governments of countries like France and Italy will be encouraged to turn a blind eye to the wholesale slaughter that used to take place of almost anything that flew. "Unless we play our part it will be difficult for us to object to the killing of songbirds in Mediterranean countries", was one comment.

In no sense does the society



Countryside conflict: huntsmen hemmed in by demonstrators.

represent an extremist view. Not only is it prohibited under its charter from commenting on any species of shooting game birds and wildfowl, but privately officials will concede that the sport brings some benefits to the countryside in that it requires, the retention of coppes, spinneys and hedgerows and discourages the draining of marshes.

That argument would be hotly contested by those who oppose all forms of blood sport for what often appear to be political motives. It is those same motives which now appear to be creeping into the debate on the

countryside and which are forcing landowners and farmers into an increasingly defensive attitude. Much that has been written and said lately has encouraged the public to believe that the countryside is being systematically destroyed to meet the needs of modern agriculture; that woods and water meadows, moorland and hedges are disappearing under the plough in order to produce heavily subsidized food surpluses which end up in the EEC's infamous "mountains". For their part, the farmers see themselves as being invaded by armies of con-

servationists with beards and anoraks, telling them how they should do their job. The whole thrust of this Bill is anti-farmer and anti-landowner," Mr James Douglas, Director-General of the Country Landowners Association laments. Some of the amendments which have been tabled, such as those urging the extension of planning controls to cover agriculture, are far worse.

So far the more responsible conservationist groups, such as the Council for the Protection of Rural England, have rejected blanket planning controls. But

all the societies are united, with the support of the Nature Conservancy and the Countryside Commission, in demanding strict controls on what are known as sites of special scientific interest (SSIs). There are 3,800 such sites in Britain, of which about 1,000 are so designated for their topographical features and the remainder because they are considered important wildlife habitats. Some are in remote and inaccessible areas and so not endangered, but more than half are considered to be vulnerable to agriculture or afforestation.

At present the Nature Conservancy Council can object only to schemes which are subject to control under the Town and Country Planning Acts. Elsewhere the farmer can do as he will. The Bill proposes greater protection, but only for those sites categorized as of outstanding interest. The conservation societies are adamant that protection must be extended to all SSIs and that there should be no grading into "important" and "not so important".

In theory the National Conservancy Council has powers to purchase compulsorily any site on which it is unable to reach agreement with the farmer concerned. But it has used them only rarely and under extreme pressure, as in the case of the Ribbles marshes, because it does not see its function as a landowner and because it simply does not have the money. As a result it has been accused of being too ready to compromise with farmers and even for alleged delay in designating new sites.

The simplest way to ensure that SSIs remain undamaged, it is said, is not to give farmers grants to reclaim the land but to pay them the same amounts to manage them as nature preserves. Often management would mean simply doing nothing and leaving the land alone; in other cases farmers might be required, for instance, to graze sheep on stretches of downland.

A system of conservation or management grants would almost certainly be readily accepted by both sides. But the one stumbling block is that nobody believes the Treasury would ever agree.

John Young  
Planning Reporter

## Putting the family first

Family Forum was strongly criticized by Ronald Butt in his column of January 22. Here the organization's chairman, Peter Bantomley, MP, explains its functions.

Sir Geoffrey Howe said in his address to the Family Forum first general meeting last November: "It would be hard to imagine an institution more central to our way of life even today, than the family. Yet we take our own families for granted. In the same way, most of us do not think too deeply about what is happening to the family in general. Your organization will help to prevent that kind of oversight. Progress in this field requires both thought and action. So I am particularly glad that you are aiming at a membership which should promote fruitful interchanges between the entire range of bodies, both national and local—which have a practical interest in the family. I hope, too, that you will offer a lead in clear-headed thinking about the outlook for the family."

The Family Forum is designed to bring together people

concerned with families and family policy. The 70-member organizations cover a wide spectrum of service charities, councils of voluntary service, church groups, pressure groups and others who have an interest in Family Forum which are: (1) To act as a central body for the purpose of consultation in matters of education or public interest concerning families; (2) To bring together organizations and individuals interested in furthering this work; (3) To encourage the formation of local networks of organizations and individuals.

The first working groups covered five overlapping areas. Local family networks were discussed, looking at the need to bring families together with local professional and voluntary services and at how education for and about family life and the family life-cycle could be spread at community level.

The session on voluntary organizations and families was

concerned with how services are responding to changing family needs and at picking up the opportunity to make help available earlier to families in trouble, reducing the need for crisis intervention.

The group on "representing the interests of families" saw Family Forum as part of a broad family movement, accepting the need and making the opportunities to involve families directly in the policies affecting them.

The group concerned with family policy and policies for families was interested in spreading research findings and professional expertise, insights and information for wider discussion and increasing family and public awareness of what is already known.

The last group looked at international links. How are family associations organized in other countries, what are the structures of family policy discussions in Europe and how

can we learn from the experiences of other countries?

All of this was designed to bolster families as the basic units in society. Members accept that the traditional definition of family—people connected by blood, marriage or adoption—covers nearly all of us nearly all of the time although family policy blurs into consideration of general domestic or household interests. Mr view is that it is neither Christian nor sensible only to regard families as containing two parents and their children. One of the advantages of the family perspective is that it brings in the family life-cycle rather than a photograph of society.

There are contentious issues in the family policy area. Family Forum recognizes that different organizations and individuals hold conflicting views on certain subjects. If they all share a concern and interest for families, Family

Forum can help by bringing them together rather than becoming a battle-ground.

In a discussion last year on the provision of contraception to under-16-year-olds, common ground was established in trying to reduce the number of children who feel that they cannot talk to their parents about their sexual feelings. Family Forum can work in many other areas to reduce avoidable handicap, distress and disadvantage.

Most professionals in social services, child guidance and family welfare services recognize that the sooner families in difficulty can get help, the more likely it is that effective assistance can be offered. Bringing these people together with families at local and community level will be one of the major tasks of Family Forum and together with its educational role are the main reasons why trusts and the Department of Health and Social Services have

offered finance to Family Forum.

Family functioning has been shown to be vital by reports such as the Court report on Child Health Services, the Plowden report on Primary Education and by studies on areas as different as juvenile delinquency and the care of the elderly or handicapped.

Mr James Callaghan expressed a growing concern and interest in families during his time in office. Mr Patrick Jenkin, now Secretary of State for Health and Social Services said in an article for the *Pre-School Playgroup Association* three years ago: "Family life is the bedrock of our society. If the family is to survive and flourish, benign neglect is not enough. We need consciously to protect and foster family life."

Family Forum can become a focus of the deep and widespread concern for healthy family life as it is lived in

Britain today with the hope of making life better for future generations as well as ourselves.

There have of course been criticisms that Family Forum is dominated by the old-fashioned and that the same time is carrying all the prejudices of the permissive groups in society. Its real function is to cater for the families in the middle, working for the people caring for their dependents.

Sir Geoffrey Howe finished his address to Family Forum last year with these words: "I hope that you will, as an organization, be at least equally vigorous in promoting the exchange of ideas on the practical provision at ground level of help and encouragement to families. A membership of the kind that you are aiming at will have an enormous fund of knowledge and experience about how local family and community support activities can be encouraged and mobilized to help families in trouble. I hope you will draw on this experience."

Perhaps no one can be harder to track down than a Soviet official who does not want to be interviewed. He can erect all kinds of obstacles before he ever needs to give a flat no: and you can pursue him with letters and phone calls from office to office, town to town for months before you notice that you have returned to the point where you started.

But whereas foreigners tend to give up early in the chase, Soviet journalists are nothing if not persistent and Mr Ustin Malapagin was determined to get a straight answer from one factory director to what seemed to him a simple but important question: what constitutes working time? He wanted to write an article on a subject that has become both topical and controversial as the Russians, in a mood to root out inefficiency before the forthcoming party congress, are cracking down on skiving and absenteeism.

For three days he telephoned the factory to make an appointment. Each time a pleasant female voice answered that Boris Mikhailovich was out—he had just left, he had not yet arrived, he would be in after lunch, he was called to head

office, he was opening something shutting something, was meeting a delegation, heading a delegation. . . . anyway, call again please.

Malapagin decided the best thing to do was to go to the director's office in person and catch him. It turned out that the owner of the pleasant voice was a lady of uncertain age, hair colour and occupation who rejoiced in the name of Flora. Her main task, it appeared, was to pick up the various different coloured phones on her desk and tell callers that Boris Mikhailovich was out. Soviet offices do not have internal switchboards. Instead the more senior the official, the more phones he has on his desk. They frequently all ring together. For the rest of the day she was engaged in four simultaneous occupations: typing, talking, listening and knitting. Flora did the work of a whole brigade of secretaries. In one day she told 76 different callers that the director was not in, knitted a maxi-pullover and a mini-dress, purchased—over the telephone—a kilo of mince, two much sought-after shirts—exchanging one for three ties—collected 20 kilos of waste paper for the city's recy-

ling scheme and got in return two volumes from a series of popular novels. During the lunch break, leaving the patient journalist to the phones, she hurried off to the museum to have a look at the exhibition of Spanish art treasures. And on the dot of six o'clock she took her mince and two jars of pickled peppers out of the office fridge and bade farewell.

The next day the pattern was repeated, only on this occasion Flora knitted a pair of trousers, and instead of peppers she took home jars of pineapple. On the third day Malapagin made some progress, he twice spotted the directors' fur hat, and three times heard his voice over the intercom, but there was no time to catch an interview.

After a few more days the office staff got used to him: the porter no longer asked to see his pass when he appeared in the mornings, and he was persuaded to buy three office lottery tickets. At the end of the week he had already begun to take part in the daily morning exercises. These "gymnastics", which the state earnestly believes will keep its citizens fit and fresh, still go on as they used to in

those beautiful old pre-war propaganda films. At 11.00 and 1.00 o'clock the radio plays special music, the windows are thrown open, everyone does tools and swings her body around behind her desk for 10 minutes.

But things were more relaxed in this office. At 11.00 they switched on the radio, played the windows, and then all went into the corridor to smoke. Here the real business of the day was transacted standing for half-an-hour under the slogan "one minute of work saves an hour" the office staff discussed the digestive system of frogs, who was getting married, retiring or changing jobs. The belief that in 1981, the Year of the Cock (the Russians, like the orientals, have named each year after animals) it was bad luck to eat chicken . . . and so on.

Malapagin decided to put his questions about working hours. Did smoking constitute work or not? Opinion was divided. One person opined that if the smoker stood on the steps of the factory, this constituted work, but if he smoked in the street, that was his free time. Another said the smoking interval was overtime and should be



Now or never, he thought. He nipped across the road to get some chocolates and in a mood to brook no argument, pressed them on Flora. "Oh you shouldn't have," she said. "Is it very, very urgent that you see Boris Mikhailovich? In that case, here are the directions how to get there. Could you give him this also?"

Malapagin asked "which ministry—the director was in now. Flora looked astonished. "Ministry? No, no, he's in the baths." She then explained that he wasn't in any ordinary bath, but one decorated with Brazilian marble. Like Pele's. There were angled showerheads, a bidet large enough for three and bath essence. "Who goes to the baths nowadays to wash himself?" she asked. "People go there for cultural enrichment and conversation."

No self-respecting factory was without its own baths, she went on. They had lost all sanitary and hygienic significance and were now an interdepartmental centre for cooperation in various economic sectors. No enterprise, however small, could function without its own baths, or as Boris Mikhailovich

more fashionably called them saunas. She professed astonishment at the journalist's lack of understanding of Soviet business etiquette. Most transactions were nowadays conducted in the sauna, which was replacing the more traditional Russian wet-steam baths, because samples had equipment did not rust in the sauna's dry heat.

Malapagin's interview with the director was conducted on the highest level: the top bench of the sauna. "Working time?" he mused. "Well, supposing you were a director and an inspector arrived from the ministry, or the budget controller. You understand his function? So where should you wash to create a good impression, the right psychological atmosphere?" In your office? I personally have a reflex action to shout at anyone I see in my office, in a restaurant? It could be misunderstood by those sitting near. You need a neutral place like a sauna, where there's no pomposity, no hints of bribery. In any case, the director added, in the heat, the fresh aromatic air, the sparkling tiles, with the music of "Abba" playing gently in the back-

ground, any high official began to melt. It was also a scientific fact that two naked people could understand each other better than two clothed people. And afterwards, he explained, you arrange a fine feast of fish and delicacies in the conking-off room, tell a few jokes, and time stands still for hours. Whatever problem the inspector brought down to the factory soon then disappears.

Malapagin confessed that he was nonplussed, and found it harder and harder to define working time. He wondered whether any factory could get along at all without a man such as Boris Mikhailovich. He took a cold shower, and decided to ask the kindergarten children how they would define working time.

His delicious satire, true in more details than any factory director would care to admit, not only gave his paper readers a good laugh, but does much to throw light on the Soviet equivalent of the expense-account lunch. It doesn't sound too bad an idea, perhaps there is room for other journalistic interviews of this kind.

Michael Binyon





New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

## DATSUN WITHIN THE WALLS

Reports that Nissan Datsun, the Japanese car manufacturer, is seriously looking at the possibility of setting up a substantial manufacturing plant in this country were confirmed yesterday. It is a development that may provoke an instinctive hostile reaction. After all, the Japanese domestic economy is notoriously resistant to major wholly-owned direct investment into Japan. There is very little such foreign direct investment and both government and the business community in effect insist that the bulk of it is in the form of joint ventures with Japanese interests.

There will also be those, already upset by the aggressive Japanese car export methods, who will see a Japanese manufacturing plant in this country as a Trojan horse placed inside the formal and informal barriers to Japanese car exporting that are in place. This entry into the domestic British market would become even more important if, as seems more than probable, there is a steady growth in protectionism for national car industries.

Such feelings are likely to be strong with our Common Market partners, particularly the French and the Italians. While ostensibly subscribing to the same general rules regarding free world trade in motor cars, as a matter of practice both the French and the Italians have

been largely successful in keeping any significant numbers of Japanese cars out of their markets. If Nissan Datsun establishes a major plant in the United Kingdom, it will have a spring board within the EEC from which it could launch a more effective attack in due course on Continental European markets. If the Common Market as a whole adopted further protection against non-EEC car imports, Nissan Datsun would already be within the defences.

Such sentiments, even if understandable, are misplaced. There is every indication that a Nissan Datsun plant would be established with the most modern equipment and with high productivity. It must be in the best interests of this country to encourage modern and efficient industrial investment of this kind. There is no reason why a Nissan Datsun investment here should be seen in any way as being different to, say, the investments by Ford and General Motors. These American owned subsidiaries are accepted happily enough as being part of British industry. Indeed, compared to Ford whose British operations are very much now part of an integrated worldwide manufacturing system, the Japanese manufacturer would be making a far larger percentage of its car in this country.

The argument being voiced in some quarters that it is wrong for

the Government to allow a Datsun investment while the taxpayer is being required heavily to subsidize British Leyland is equally misplaced. So far as we know Nissan Datsun has not asked for any special government financial assistance, over and above that available to any new investment in a development area. The purpose of these standard elements of government help is to encourage useful industrial activity in areas of high unemployment, to the general benefit of the British economy as a whole. None of the other car manufacturers operating in this country are in a position to make the kind of investment that the Japanese are proposing. It can only, therefore, add to the average quality of British industrial capacity.

It must be to the advantage of the British balance of trade and to the economy in general that effectively the full advantage of the value added in the manufacture and assembly of these Japanese cars should fall in the United Kingdom. The only proper concern of the British Government in the transaction is to obtain undertakings that the maximum possible proportion of the new cars should be of British manufacture as soon as possible and to monitor progress and performance in this respect. This, equally, should be part of any general industrial policy towards foreign owned car manufacturers in this country.

## FRESH APPROACHES OVER AFGHANISTAN

It is a pity that President Giscard d'Estaing should have launched his proposal on Afghanistan at the time he did and in the way he did. The timing was wrong, because the Islamic nations were formulating their own initiative at the Taif Summit, in the presence of the United Nations Secretary General, Dr Kurt Waldheim. The manner was wrong, in that the French President seems to have consulted neither the Islamic nations nor his European allies. Fellow Europeans, it seems, were merely "informed", which is less than adequate considering that the EEC has for some time been trying to evolve a common approach to a number of foreign policy issues, not least Afghanistan.

The French proposal probably has more to do with French politics than anything else. President Giscard produced his idea of a conference on Afghanistan during a television interview which was clearly related to the forthcoming presidential election in France. Having been widely criticized in France for his failure to restrain the adventurism of the Libyan leader, Colonel Gaddafi, in what was formerly French West Africa, President Giscard presumably felt he had to show that France could play an active and positive role in some other part of the world.

Whatever lay behind it the Giscard proposal is not without merit, and should not be dismissed out of hand. It envisages a conference on "foreign intervention in Afghanistan", with the participation of the Soviet Union and the other permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, plus the regional powers of South West Asia, and representatives of

"the Islamic community". The French proposal would exclude the regime in Kabul headed by Mr Babrak Karmal, which is rightly regarded not only by the Afghan rebels but also by the major Western powers as a puppet of Moscow.

The Afghan rebels fighting the Soviet occupying troops want to drive the Russians out by military means, and have little time for conferences and initiatives of any kind, whether they include Mr Karmal or not. The Islamic leaders meeting in Taif this week came up against this obstacle in trying to formulate their own proposal for an end to the Afghan crisis. Pakistanian officials say that they have received hints of "flexibility" not only from Moscow but also from Kabul. When the Pakistan President, General Zia ul-Haq, suggested at Taif that the United Nations official should be sent to Kabul to open negotiations, the four Afghan rebel factions represented at the summit objected vehemently.

There are signs, however, that the Islamic nations are impatient with the rebels' apparent inability to form a united front. There is also a feeling of irritation with the rebels' insistence that not only should Kabul be shunned, but nobody should talk to the Russians either. Since the object of the exercise is to persuade the Russians to withdraw from Afghanistan, any conference which excludes them is not likely to have much impact. It is for this reason that the Islamic nations, while mainly raising their support for the rebels' struggle, have resolved to approach Moscow, if not Kabul. To this end, the Taif Summit toned down previous Islamic

condemnations of the Soviet occupation, referring to "intervention" rather than "invasion", and calling for the withdrawal of "foreign forces". As the Pakistani Foreign Minister put it: "When you move into negotiations with a party, it is inappropriate to make condemnations."

The Islamic formula—like the French one—offers the Russians an opening. Indeed, despite the catch-handed way in which it was put forward, the French proposal is not inconsistent with the Taif Summit declaration. With the active backing of the United Nations, some movement toward ending the Afghanistan crisis could well be begun. If—as the Pakistanians have been urging—a United Nations emissary were to broach the subject in Moscow, he could do so on behalf of both the Islamic world and the West. It would still be necessary to impress upon the Russians that no settlement is possible unless Moscow undertakes to withdraw its combat forces from Afghanistan.

The question is whether the Russians would wish to take advantage of such an opening. There is no sign of it at present. Ironically enough, in the long run it is the Afghan rebels rather than the West or the Islamic world who may force the Soviet Union to the negotiating table. Given the preponderance of Soviet power, the rebels are not likely to achieve the military victory they are seeking in Afghanistan. If they could, if unaided, make life sufficiently uncomfortable for the occupiers to force a negotiated solution to become more attractive to Moscow than continued military stalemate.

## Breath test controls

From Dr B. M. Wright  
Sir, Having been actively concerned with the theory and practice of breath alcohol testing for more than 20 years, and as the co-inventor of the Alcotest, a British-designed and -made machine now coming into use in Britain as a screening device ("breathalyzer") instead of the German Alcotest tubes, I welcome the letter from Mr. T. E. Rymer (January 27), entirely agree with him that the concentration of alcohol in the breath is not a sufficiently reliable indicator to be used as the primary means of determining a person's "blood concentration" without any possibility of appeal (unless the reading is below the equivalent of 100mg/100ml blood).

The trouble is that the main source of error is not in the analysis of breath, which nowadays rivals that of blood in its accuracy, but in the uncertainty of the relationship between the breath and blood concentrations. The reasons for this uncertainty are complex, but its importance is shown by the well known fact that a valid breath alcohol test cannot be taken within 15 minutes of drinking because the residual alcohol in the mouth and throat can seriously raise the breath concentration.

The Home Office have spent many thousands of pounds and man-hours of work trying to find the perfect machine, but in spite of automatic print-out and repeated calibration (which are, in practice, an additional source of breakdown) they have not been able to improve the situation, because they have been barking up the wrong tree.

When I gave evidence to the Ellenborough committee I had the greatest difficulty in restraining them from going all-out for breath analysis. However, in the end they relented in favour of the Northern Ireland practice, which has been in operation now for 12 years, in which the accused is invited to plead guilty to the result of the breath test, but is free to ask for a blood test whenever the breath level. The Home Office and the Ministry of Transport are obsessed by the fear that this practice would lead to everyone asking for a blood test, but the evidence from Northern Ireland is that in 12 years no more

than 10 per cent have ever asked for a blood test and of recent years no more than 3 per cent.

The main objection to complete dependence on the breath test is, of course, its unreliability, but another important factor is, its effect on instrument design. As we have seen, no amount of sophistication of design will improve the situation, but manufacturers are only too pleased to provide it as it increases the cost of the instruments and so is good for business.

Once it is accepted that breath is not the final answer, much simpler and cheaper instruments can be used, like the evidential Alcotest that has been operating in Northern Ireland for the last three years. A further advantage of making the blood option free will be, to simplify the required legislation, it is only necessary to provide that the accused may plead guilty to the result of the breath test, which at present he cannot.

Yours faithfully,  
B. M. WRIGHT,  
93 Uxbridge Road,  
Rickmansworth,  
Hertfordshire.

## More than one mind

From Professor W. H. C. Frend  
Sir, In the course of her long letter (January 23) Mrs Thwaites seems to suggest that "objective theological inquiry" should ultimately lead towards the goal of seeing "all Christians doctrinally of one mind". She clearly prefers this idea of Christian unity to that of "an ever more perfect relationship between a group of close friends", who nevertheless are "of more than one mind".

Rightly or wrongly, however, doctrinal unity has never been realised at any time in the Church's history. From the moment, within a decade of the Crucifixion, when Christians at Antioch preferred to call themselves "Christians" rather than "Nazarenes" as their fellows in Jerusalem came to be known, thus emphasising the Hellenistic Jewish character of their community, the Ecclesia (Church) of the New Israel has been divided.

A generation before Constantine each of the major Christian communities, led by Rome, Alexandria and Antioch, was developing its own

interpretation of doctrine and discipline. Attempts, such as at the Council of Chalcedon, to heal the rifts and define Christian truth by means of doctrinal formulae failed. They were rejected instinctively by the great majority of Christians, who felt that their religious beliefs could not be expressed by neat formulations.

The divisions arising from Chalcedon, the Monophysites, Orthodox and Latin-Catholic traditions, remain with us today. And, in our time, similar approaches towards settling Anglican-Methodist and Roman Catholic-Anglican differences have had no success.

One wonders, then, whether institutional and organic unity corresponds to the life of his people throughout nearly 2,000 years of history. Identities, personal and collective, are precious possessions for whose preservation suffering and even martyrdom are acceptable.

Is it not better to travel hopefully as friends accepting the reality of our differences than to look for "a miracle" that would remove them? In human terms would not such an event merely place one individual or group in a position to dominate the personal lives of his fellow-Christians, and so begin the process of protest and schism over again?

Yours faithfully,  
W. H. C. FREND,  
Department of Ecclesiastical History,  
The University,  
Glasgow.  
January 26.

## Voice from the past

From Mr James Pilditch  
Sir, Could you stand yet one more letter about "Tibby" Brittain? At Mons, about the time *They Were Not Divided* was released, RSM Brittain urged us cadets he was drilling to look straight ahead, not at him.

If you want to see me, he cried, "go to the pictures". (Pause.) "I'll cost you half a crown". (Longer pause.) "Well worth it", he boomed.

Yours sincerely,  
JAMES PILDITCH,  
62 Cadogan Square, SW1.  
January 27.

## Thaw in trade with Russia

From Sir Richard Dobson  
Sir, I have been waiting in vain for some more self-righteous person than myself to comment on the visit of a well-sponsored British trade mission to Moscow (reports, January 21 and 23).

Less than a year ago, in common with other members of the western alliance, we were showing our distaste for the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan by collective protest and at least token withdrawals from commercial and cultural intercourse — the case of the United States, rather more than token.

Now we are all creeping back again, looking for business, though the Russians are still in Afghanistan and their worldwide political and military posture has by no means been visibly modified. On the contrary, so far from begging us to let them off the hook or expressing any contrition, the Kremlin is apologising to its own people for letting us back in, on the grounds that they need Western technology.

Thus, having denied the Afghan people any material support, we are now withdrawing all moral support.

As an ordinary citizen, I am puzzled by both policies. Cannot we be right? If I were an Olympic athlete, or a non-Olympic equestrian, I should be positively cross.

Can we please be told what is going on and why?  
Yours etc,  
RICHARD DOBSON,  
16 Marchmont Road,  
Surrey.  
January 25.

## Lambeth's spending

From Dr A. C. Day  
Sir, As a Lambeth ratepayer I read with interest the letter from Mr Ted Knight (January 26).

The real needs of Lambeth are indeed many, as Mr Knight indicates. What would be the characteristics of a council which had unforgotten concern for the needs of its constituents? It would make a clear distinction between the vital and the inessential in order to conserve all available funds for use in relieving the greatest need. It would maximize efficiency and reduce waste. It would avoid rates so excessive as to threaten the loss of the borough and so increase unemployment. It would seek to share any increased burden between ratepayers and ratepayers so as to raise the maximum revenue with the minimum of partiality or bias.

What would characterize a council motivated chiefly by a desire to make political capital? By wanton expenditure it would achieve its desired confrontation with the Government. The burden of excessive taxation would be placed almost wholly on the ratepayers' backs. The council would be a council of house rent, the blame would be laid at the door of the central Government. When economies are called for, the ratepayers would be assured that cuts would affect old people's homes and the like. On the other hand, economies which could be made would be dismissed as too trivial to implement.

Which kind of a council do you think we have in Lambeth? Is it really acting in the best interests of the borough?  
Yours faithfully,  
A. C. DAY,  
23 Epsom Road, SE21.  
January 26.

## Economic planning effects

From Professor G. C. Allen, FBA  
Sir, In an effort to refute Professor Hayek's proposition about the "successful" free market economies and the "unsuccessful" socialist economies, Lord Kaldor (January 27) put forward the example of Austria, a socialist economy that has enjoyed fast growth, monetary stability and full employment. He described, with justified approval, the processes of consultation and cooperation among the various interests, private and public, in policy-making in that country.

The whole discussion raises doubts whether it is useful to debate the problem of economic growth and stability in terms of private enterprise versus state control. Is it not the kind of state intervention in the economy rather than the extent of it that is significant?

In this connexion, the example of Japan is relevant. Here is a market economy where the size of the public sector is very small, but where the Government has played a most important part in the formulation and execution of economic policy. I suggest that it is by distinguishing between constructive and damaging forms of intervention (judged from the standpoint of economic growth) that we may arrive at useful conclusions on this matter.

Those distinctions are not difficult to draw. What is depressing for Britain is that, given the distribution of political power in this country and the condition of our institutions, it is more than likely that government intervention, in the future as in the past, will be of the kind that is deleterious to economic progress.

Yours faithfully,  
G. C. ALLEN,  
150 Ebury Court,  
380 Ebury Road,  
Oxford.  
January 27.

## Fresh look at milk

From Mr K. J. Tyler  
Sir, We are glad that Mr Allen (January 22) enjoyed his fresh farm milk and suffered no ill effects. He is more fortunate than the people who were involved in several large outbreaks of enteritis reported during recent years. In those outbreaks unpasteurised milk from dairy farms was the medium by which the illness was transmitted.

Yours faithfully,  
K. J. TYLER, Secretary,  
The Environmental Health Officers' Association,  
19 Grosvenor Place, SW1.  
January 23.

## Power-base for a new centre party

From Mr Bruno de Hamel  
Sir, I urge Mrs Williams and others to consider very carefully whether they do not need the Labour Party at least as much as it needs them at the moment.

Without them the growing resistance to anti-parliamentary forces within the party will be weakened. Without the party, who will they be, what will they become?

The prospects for the formation and survival of a fourth political party in this country are not rosy. The Liberals really do not want allies, except on their own terms. A shared electoral platform might attract some of the Poundist-type sentiments that are presently in vogue, but the vogue will not last. The Council for Social Democracy, whatever this means, is not the sort of label the English take to. After the next election, this label is all that its supporters could be left with.

Meanwhile opposition within the trade unions and the Labour Party to the disastrous Wembley decision will be deprived of influential anti-parliamentary forces will continue to erode their position. The Labour Party will lose support, perhaps on a large scale.

Will the lost support be given instead to the Social Democracy Council? I doubt very much indeed. Only the Conservative Party is likely to benefit.

Speaking as a Conservative trade unionist, I do not believe such developments would be in the lasting interests of the country. The cause of parliamentary democracy needs the help of Mrs Williams and her friends where it will be most effective—within the Labour Party. I hope they will think again.

Yours faithfully,  
BRUNO DE HAMEL,  
35 Lennox Gardens, SW1.

## Hostages agreement

From Mr Simon Harding  
Sir, Your editorial on American renunciation of the agreement with Iran (January 23) makes only one valid point against renunciation and misses all the important points in favour.

The point against is that, in your view, international law does not permit an agreement to be breached even if it is made under duress. Under international law a treaty can be renounced at any time if one party feels that relevant circumstances have changed since the agreement was made, or if one party feels that the other has itself broken a part of the agreement.

In the present case the fact that the hostages have been treated far worse than the American Government has led to expect, and the United States on at least one and possibly both of these counts. There is no question of there being a moral imperative to "keep one's word", because domestic law recognizes no such obligation in cases of duress, and international law recognizes no morality at all.

Although it may be expedient to honour agreements in general, there is no reason to regard it as such in the present case, where the American Government is dealing with a country that has acted in complete defiance of the most fundamental norms of international behaviour and therefore places itself beyond the pale of the established conventions of state beyond the sympathy of any state whose views ought to be respected.

The points in favour are far more important and less debatable. The first is that renunciation, if carried out in such a way as to withhold substantial assets belonging to, or

start of a new, rootless, centre party: it is a new tree, long-wanted, now emerging from sound roots within the much battered Parliamentary Labour Party.

For those who are dissatisfied with both Mr Vederwood Benn's and the Conservative Party's brands of muddled extremism there is once again in British politics a democratic left to work and vote for.

Yours, etc,  
ELIZABETH YOUNG,  
WAYLAND KENNET,  
100 Bayswater Road, W2.  
January 28.

## In for a penny, in for a pound

From Sir Anthony Lewis  
Sir, If we are to have new coins (report, January 29) let us have some of the old names back, instead of the present inelegant and characterless "p". Could not the new 20p piece be called a florin, and would it be too optimistic to suppose that the name "sovereign"—carrying no hint of depreciation in this country within living memory—might help to sustain the value of the £1 coin?

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY LEWIS,  
47 York Terrace East, NW1.  
January 28.

## From Mr P. H. Kemp

Sir, Instead of abolishing the £1 note altogether, would it not be better to produce a smaller version gummed on one side ready for use on first-class letters in the not too far distant future?

Yours faithfully,  
P. H. KEMP,  
Rusland Hill Lodge,  
Hockering Road,  
Woking,  
Surrey.  
January 28.

## From Mr Keith Wright

Sir, The Section to issue a 20-pence piece raises an old question. What are we to call it?

Two of our current coins had names—shilling and florin—but these were dropped from the new designs with the excuse that their use would obstruct the acceptance of decimalisation. The result is that we are now the only nation without familiar names for its currency.

Now that decimalization is a fait accompli, is it not time to reintroduce names to the coinage—there's room enough on the bare designs. We might not be too late to halt the devaluation of the language and remove the indignity of everyone from schoolchild to BBC newscaster who refers to one, five, 10, and soon 20p pieces.

Yours faithfully,  
KEITH WRIGHT,  
Bargate,  
Bridenden,  
Kent.  
January 28.

## SOE in the Balkans

From Lieutenant-Colonel R. R. Prentice  
Sir, As another "survivor" referred to in Sir Peter Wilkinson's letter (January 9), may I strongly endorse his plea and the letters of Richard Clogg (December 24) and of M. R. D. Foot (January 3) for publication of an official history of SOE in the Balkans, and especially of SOE in Greece?

Having parachuted into occupied Macedonia in August, 1943, as a British Liaison officer with ELAS partisans, I was with them continuously until December, 1944, a month after the German withdrawal. For most of 1944 I was in command of the Allied Military Mission in West Macedonia, one of the six command areas under mission headquarters.

It is high time that the myth behind your diarist's comments (December 16), that the record of SOE in the Balkans "is so unsavoury that it cannot be written until surviving participants are well and truly buried".

It is not only a question of being fair to the memory of those who died in Greece and to the reputation of those who took part; it is of paramount importance to Anglo-Greek relations, and to the contribution to the Greek partisan war against the Axis in 1942-44 should be thoroughly researched in the light of all the information available. After nearly 40 years there is no valid reason for any evidence to be withheld.

We should not allow our own war effort in this field to be denigrated. It will become clear when the SOE records are published: First, that the political problems of the Greek Resistance were handled by the mission leaders in a way that was fair and just; and secondly, that the Greek partisan leaders themselves.

Secondly, that despite all the disappointments and setbacks Britain's efforts were successful in her main objective of helping the Greeks to pursue the war against the Axis Powers during the occupation, and thus forcing the Axis to retain many divisions in Greece which would otherwise have been employed elsewhere.

It is to refute for good the charge of "unsavouriness" and to establish the facts based on records of the time that members of SOE request publication of the SOE's Far East records can now be revealed then why not also those of Greece, one of our closest allies with whom the British people have had ties of strong friendship and so much in common over many generations—and not least during the years 1942-44?

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,  
RONALD R. PRENTICE,  
Standish,  
Merstham,  
Surrey.  
January 15.

## EEC surpluses

From Mrs A. M. Stewart-Wallace  
Sir, It has been reported that France is converting vegetable waste into alcohol to supplement petrol. Would it not now seem sensible for the EEC to use its wine lakes and various food mountains in the same way and thus create a vast energy-producing compost heap, rather than subsidize low priced food to go behind the iron curtain?

Yours etc,  
MARY STEWART-WALLACE,  
The Moot House,  
Ditchling, Sussex.

## Home truths

From Mr John Morley  
Sir, If the National Heritage Fund does not exist to ensure that the Poussin remains at Chatsworth, what does it exist for? At Chatsworth: as a museum curator, I aver that I deplore the continual flight of objects from great houses to museums, and Chatsworth has had its losses already.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN MORLEY, Director,  
Art Gallery and Museums and  
The Royal Pavilion,  
Brighton.  
January 21.

## The cost of dying

From Mrs V. St J. Killery  
Sir, An excellent suggestion has been made by Mrs Goodwin in her letter today (January 23) that older people should buy their coffins now, a practice incidentally followed by many Chinese for centuries.

The chief difficulty, however, would be one of storage in these days of many flat-dwellers. Would my visitors be elated or depressed, I wonder, by the sight of a coffin propped up in a small entrance hall?

Yours faithfully,  
MARGARET J. KILLERY,  
6 Hamilton House,  
Vicarage Gate, W8.  
January 28.







What the Datsun scheme means for Britain, page 19



Mr. Ehrmann: surprised at move by banks.

people who are here and have given their career to the group. I'll do my utmost to help maintain employment."

# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

### Shell and BP set to resume purchase of crude oil from Iran

By Nicholas Hirst  
Energy Correspondent

Shell is to resume buying oil from Iran, industry sources in London yesterday confirmed that the Anglo-Dutch group had agreed to purchase about 100,000 barrels a day, the first oil to be bought from Iran by the group since March last year.

British Petroleum, which stopped buying from Iran at the same time as Shell, is having talks in Tehran on resuming deliveries. Reports suggest it might take about 50,000 barrels a day.

The return of the American hostages and lifting of sanctions against Iran by EEC countries has ended any diplomatic obstacle Shell or BP might have felt in resuming Iranian purchases. Despite the fact that four Britons are still detained in Iran, the British Government has placed no restriction on commercial deals.

Both Shell and British Petroleum relied on Iran, when it was ruled by the Shah, for an important slice of their supplies. The revolution resulted in both companies having their deliveries cut back, with BP losing about one million barrels a day. In the first quarter last year, both companies were taking about 265,000 barrels a day between them, but neither renewed contracts in April when the effective price rose to \$35 a barrel at a time when the comparable Saudi Arabian crude was priced at only \$26 a barrel.

Iranian prices have recently fallen more into line with other producers, although for their quality they are still among the dearest of members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Relatively small rises by Iran after the December Opec meeting in the Indonesian island of Bali have put its main crude at \$37 a barrel with 60 days credit.

### Receivers called in to Airfix group

By Roman Eisenstein

Airfix Industries, the Dinky Toys and Meccano group, yesterday collapsed owing £15m to its banking creditors. The banks called in the receivers after rejecting a scheme for financial reconstruction.

Mr. Ralph Ehrmann, the chairman, said: "We were all very surprised the banks were not prepared to accept the proposals as presented. They seemed very reasonable to us and our advisers. The companies were viable and it was the weight of central debt that was holding the group down."

S. G. Warburg, the group's financial advisers, had proposed a scheme which included a large measure of capital reconstruction. It was presented to the creditors on Wednesday morning and unanimously rejected by the afternoon. Fifteen banks agreed to appoint receivers to take over the group, including all the clearing banks

and the group is led by National Westminster, which is owed £8m.

The rescue scheme involved the creation of preference shares convertible into ordinary shares, effectively turning some of the debt into long-term equity finance. It was eventually made up of three proposals.

The turning of about half of the debt into convertible preference shares.

The dropping of interest payments on part of the debt. Change of some of the short-term commitments into medium-term loans and the delaying of interest payment on these.

A spokesman for National Westminster Bank said yesterday that the banks had been involved in discussions over Airfix since early 1980. The directors had considered a financial package to assist them

through their problems. This included an agreement last November for the sale of Airfix Plastics and Decol, two leading subsidiaries.

Although the debt was reduced from £23m to £15m, the projected requirements of the group were beyond those agreed with the banks.

The November package included monthly account reports and protections previously agreed with the banks. These showed that further finance would be needed while the agreements had provided for decreasing borrowings.

Airfix's problems arose directly from the troubles of the toy industry.

Mr. Ehrmann said yesterday that the company had been affected by high interest charges, exports had been hit by the high level of sterling and sales were affected by the recession.

At the interim stage for the six months to September, Airfix had reported a loss of £2.3m. The board had forecast a reduction of trading losses before interest charges.

Airfix employs 650 people, and although it is best known for its Meccano and Dinky Toys, its main products have been plastic kits for model aircraft. The two joint receivers who have been appointed are Mr. W. Mackay and Mr. W. Roberts, both from the leading City auditors, Ernst & Whinney.

Mr. Ehrmann said his main concern at present was to preserve jobs. He said: "We hope to create a viable company for

### Hill Samuel replaces Hambros at BPC

By Richard Allen

Hill Samuel yesterday filled the breach left by Hambros Bank, who resigned as merchant bank advisers to BPC, the pricing and publishing group.

While speculation mounted over the future of the group, no executives were available for comment. Several BPC directors, including Mr. Peter Robinson, the chairman, were said to be in meetings.

A spokesman for National Westminster Bank bankers to BPC, would neither confirm nor deny suggestions that a team from the bank's troubleshooting industrial unit had been in talks with the board since the beginning of this week.

National Westminster is owed a substantial amount of BPC's debt which stood at £43m at the end of last year and including overdrafts of £22m.

It is thought that Hambros withdrew as advisers earlier this week after only four months on the advice of Nat West who was attempting to defuse a potentially explosive board dispute over the involvement of Mr. Robert

### Lloyd's Bill likely to be redrafted

By Richard Allen  
Insurance Correspondent

Controversial clauses in the draft Bill designed to tighten self-regulation at Lloyd's, the London insurance market, are likely to be redrafted as a result of opposition from some Lloyd's members and MPs.

Following objections from some MPs at the Bill's second reading stage in the House of Commons, the Lloyd's committee has taken the unusual step of offering to redraft what many opponents saw as the Bill's most contentious aspect—Clause 11.

This clause would effectively have given the 26-man ruling council, to be set up under the

new Act, a blanket indemnity against legal action by underwriting members in the wake of market disputes.

The newly-formed Association of External Members of Lloyd's has been campaigning vigorously for this clause to be removed.

A market spokesman said last night that Lloyd's had asked Parliament that detailed discussion on this aspect should be deferred until the new Lloyd's ruling council, envisaged under the Bill, is established.

The Bill would in the meantime be redrafted to empower the council to make a by-law dealing with the Lloyd's society's legal liabilities. Before such a by-law became effective it would require confirmation by the Privy Council and

approval by both Houses of Parliament.

The spokesman added that Lloyd's had also agreed to discuss certain other controversial aspects of the Bill with a view to changes being made.

Although welcoming the move last night, Mr. David Watkins-Cronin, secretary of the Association of External Members said that the Bill still seemed "fairly radical surgery".

Two members of the association have petitioned against the Bill in Parliament. Among their objections are the fact that only six underwriting names are to be represented on the planned ruling council and that the Bill does not refer to divestment of underwriting interests by Lloyd's brokers.

### Gold price plunges to a 10-month low

By Frances Williams

The gold price plummeted yesterday to its lowest level for nearly 10 months, as investors hurried to switch their gold holdings into dollar investments. It fell \$24 on the day to close at \$490.50 an ounce, a low last recorded at the beginning of April last year.

Yesterday's precipitate drop brought the total fall this week to \$62. Gold is now almost half the record price of \$550 to which it soared in January 1980, though it has yet to reach last year's low of \$474 in March.

The dollar, boosted by switch-out of gold, continued its steady upward path, making gains against all the major currencies including sterling. The pound lost 1.15 cents to end the day at \$2.3975, back to its level of two weeks ago before the release of the American hostages by Iran.

High dollar interest rates and a strong dollar exchange rate have made gold increasingly expensive to hold, in terms of income foregone on alternative interest-bearing investments and in terms of interest pay-

able on loans to finance gold purchases.

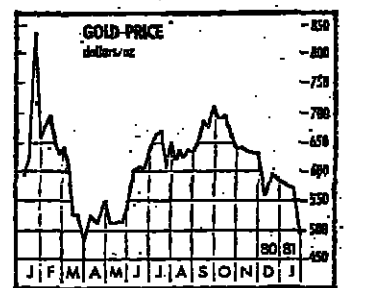
These factors have been operating for some time but statements this week by the Reagan Administration have fuelled market pessimism. President Reagan is expected to pursue a firm counter-inflation policy, involving a tight monetary stance and continuing high interest rates.

The authorities have also stated their intention to move quickly towards a balanced budget, and the United States balance of payments position is improving, which will help the dollar.

In New York the gold price dropped below the \$500 mark in early trading, but closed \$7.50 higher at \$494.

Its recovery was helped by reports that United States Embassy personnel had been ordered out of Warsaw. The report was denied by the State Department and traders suggested that gold would resume a downward course.

Concern about President Reagan's proposed economic cuts and anti-inflationary mea-



sure also weighed on the market.

It is widely thought that the gold price could plunge to \$450 or perhaps even to \$400, in the absence of fresh demand for the metal.

On the foreign exchange markets the dollar gained 1.53 pence against the Deutsche mark, despite heavy intervention by the West German Federal Bank to close in London at DM1.0855. The pound lost ground to the dollar but maintained Wednesday's five-year high against the Deutsche mark, ending the day at DM5.0250.

The troubled mark was further weakened yesterday by news of West Germany's accelerating price inflation and continued reaction to Wednesday's annual economic report, which projects a gloomy outlook for economic activity

### Sir Hugh turns down Fraser post

By Our Financial Staff

House of Fraser directors met again yesterday to discuss defensive tactics against Lomro's £225m bid and to offer Sir Hugh Fraser, the ousted chairman, the presidency of the company.

Meanwhile the stock market was betting that Mr. Rowland "Tiny" Rowland's trading group would win the takeover battle.

Sir Hugh and Mr. Rowland left yesterday's meeting after an hour. Sir Hugh said he believed he was too old to accept the offer of presidency of the stores group.

However, Professor Roland Smith, the new chairman, said the board thought the post would have been appropriate.

Mr. Philip Hawley, the American director who abstained from voting at Wednesday's meeting, was not present yesterday, having flown back to the United States.

of Fraser and Lomro, last night said Mr. Hawley's role had been to attempt to calm down the atmosphere in the Fraser boardroom.

Lomro also acted swiftly to deny press reports of comments from Sir Hugh Fraser, alleging that Mr. Rowland had employed a private detective to investigate the Sir Hugh's trading activities. Mr. Spicer said the report was "totally false and without foundation".

He described yesterday's board meeting as very confused and said that Sir Rowland questioned the loyalty of other directors whose votes had ousted Sir Hugh from the chairmanship.

Later Professor Smith put out a statement stressing the board's determination to resist the bid and to "safeguard the future success of House of Fraser as an independent company".

He added: "Sir Hugh Fraser has chosen to align himself with Lomro, but our loyalties must remain to the company and its shareholders and not to one man."

A team of three headed by Professor Smith was agreed on at the meeting to organize the defence tactics.

On the stock market, Fraser shares added 2p to 143p, at which level they reflect a conviction among investors that the deal will go through. Lomro shares fell 2p to 95p.

S. G. Warburg, Fraser's merchant bank advisers, revealed yesterday it had picked up 50,000 Fraser shares for a client at 144p, but so far there appears to have been few substantial lines of stock appearing on the market.

Another board meeting is planned for Tuesday. Meanwhile Lomro is planning a meeting of its shareholders which it needs to approve the offer. Mr. Spicer said Lomro was also planning to look closely at the minutes of Wednesday's meeting as he thought there could be some procedural problems.

### AGB SERVICES TO MANAGEMENT

CONTINUING PROGRESS:		Six months to 31 October 1980 (unaudited figures)	
Turnover		£14.65m.	up 13%
Pre-tax profit		£1.45m.	up 22%
Earnings per share		3.58p	up 31%
Dividend per share		2.00p	up 33%

"The results for the six months to 31 October 1980 show a continuation of growth and reflect a creditable performance in difficult trading conditions."

"Performance in the second half is holding up well and I expect the substantial advance in profits which I forecast at the Annual General Meeting to be achieved, this despite the fact that some of our companies are having to cope with heavy pressures on their margins."

BERNARD AUDLEY, Chairman

Copies of the Interim Statement may be obtained from the Company Secretary

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### Decca has 'turned the corner'

By Margaret Pagano

Speaking publicly for the first time since Rascal Electronics acquired the troubled Decca empire for £106m last year, Mr. Ernest Harrison, Rascal's chairman, last night assured the City that Decca has now turned the corner.

The scepticism expressed at the time of the bid, particularly the price, for a company in desperate trouble had been proved wrong. Mr. Harrison noted confidently that Decca, which in the last financial year to March lost £12.2m, would be adding significantly to profits in the next financial year, 1981-82. By 1983, it should be yielding substantial profits with improved margins.

But results for the first half of the year to October released yesterday showed that Decca had again lost £52m. Some £3m comes from the capital goods sector and £2.14m from consumer goods. Negotiations are currently under way for the sale of Decca's television manufacturing group in the consumer goods division.

The sale of fixed assets and plants is expected to yield £16m. Additionally Rascal hopes to sell Decca House on the South Bank for around £8m.

The real problems in the capital goods sector were encountered by the radar group. Overall, this division, which showed losses of £5m and £2m profit in the two years, is expected to be profitable after interest charges in the second half of the year. So, a small loss in the full year is thought to be the last Decca will experience, Mr. Harrison said.

The problems at Decca's radar division, were caused by the fierce competition from Japan and the United States which beat Decca's products both on price and quality.

Some 250 redundancies have been made in the radar division while, overall, 800 employees have been cut from the Decca workforce.

### Heavy cuts proposed in US foreign aid programme

From Frank Vogt  
US Economics Correspondent  
Washington, Jan 29

Dramatic cuts in America's foreign aid have been proposed by officials in the White House office of management and budget.

The proposals, if approved by President Reagan and Congress, would involve breaking a series of pledges made by the Carter administration to the World Bank, to assorted foreign countries and to America's chief allies at the Venice summit last summer.

In what the budget office describes as a "working paper", the officials are calling for the sharpest cuts in all non-military aid ever made by an American government in a single year.

The cut total over \$2,600m (£1,085m) from an aid programme of \$8,000m for the 1982 fiscal year starting on October 1.

A spokesman for the budget office stressed that the paper had been drafted as part of the budget review process ordered by President Reagan, and that no cabinet decisions had yet been taken on the recommendations. Mr. Alexander Haig, Secretary of State, is likely to oppose the cuts, which are believed to be favoured by Mr. David Stockman, the budget director.

The battle over cuts in aid could prove to be Mr. Haig's



Mr. Donald Regan, United States Secretary of the Treasury, who yesterday outlined the new administration's domestic and foreign policies, telling details of tax cutting and public spending proposals. He said the Reagan White House would be "taking a scalpel" to all sectors of public spending.

Report, page 18

### New techniques to exploit offshore gas field £100m saving in Morecambe Bay

By Nicholas Hirst  
Energy Correspondent

British Gas has developed a new combination of techniques to exploit the Morecambe Bay field, the only offshore field where it is the sole licensee.

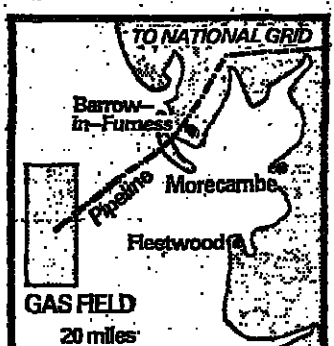
Use of the techniques, some of which have been pioneered off Peru and in Iran, will save about £100m, a tenth of the cost of the total of £1,000m estimated for the field's development.

They are necessitated by the shallowness of the Morecambe Bay reservoir which was discovered by the state-owned corporation in 1974, and which makes conventional drilling expensive and wasteful of platforms.

With a depth of only 3,000ft conventional drilling would require between 17 and 20 platforms. By using a technique of slant drilling, where the drilling derrick is inclined at 30 degrees from the vertical, allowing a maximum deviation into the reservoir of 60 degrees, the field can be fully developed with a maximum of 10 fixed production platforms.

Using a vertical drilling derrick, the deviation possible to tap reservoir reserves would only drain a diameter of 6,000ft around a platform. Slant drilling will increase the diameter to 10,000ft, raising the area to be drained three times. British Gas plans to combine slant drilling, which has been used before, with the use of a mobile jack-up drilling rig.

The jack-up will be transferred from platform to platform carrying the slanted derrick which will be skidded on to the drilling platform by means of rails and hydraulics. Standing 20 ft away from the fixed platforms the jack-up will retain all the services required for drilling, including an accommodation unit for 100 people, a helicopter pad, mud tanks and pumps, power, control systems and fire fighting equipment, reducing the weight load on the fixed platforms from the 1,000 tonnes of



a conventional system to 300 tonnes.

A three-year drilling programme to develop the 5,000,000 million cubic feet field is envisaged starting in 1982 with first production delivered by 36-inch pipeline close to Barrow-in-Furness for delivery to a station for transfer to the national grid near Kirby Lonsdale, in the winter of 1983/4.

Tenders for the £20m jack-up have already been invited from both British and foreign yards and order will be placed shortly. Between six and eight drilling platforms costing an estimated £10m each will be used initially as production is built up to a maximum of 1,200 million cubic feet a day a tenth of the expected peak United Kingdom demand in 1985/6.

Ten platforms may be used ultimately and a central gas processing platform and accommodation platform are also to be ordered, with contracts starting to be placed at the end of the year.

Morecambe Bay is to be used to meet the wide fluctuation in gas demand between winter and summer, with production being shut down to as little as 100 million cubic feet a day during low periods. As a result the field is expected to produce for a minimum of 40 years. The structure of the platforms is to be modified for this exceptionally long life.

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Stock markets	
FT Ind 463.1 up 3.7	
FT Gilts 69.09 up 0.24	
Sterling	
\$ 2.3975 down 115 pts	
Index 81.4 down 0.2	
Dollar	
Index 88.8 up 0.4	
DM 2.0935 up 133 pts	
Gold	
\$490.50 down 534	
Money	
3-mth sterling 14 1/2-13 1/2	
3-mth Euro \$ 17 1/2-17 1/4	
6-mth Euro \$ 16 1/2-16 1/4	

### 1,000 more Midlands car jobs go

Almost 1,000 workers are to lose their jobs at Talbot Ryton and Land-Rover, Solihull, in the West Midlands.

A 23 per cent cut at Ryton, which assembles French-made Alpine and Solara cars, will reduce the 525-strong labour force by 525. The move raises new fears about the company's future after the serious financial losses reported by its French parent company, Peugeot.

But a Talbot spokesman said that the latest cut would enable the company to introduce "more economical production" at Ryton than has been possible since last August when two-day working was brought in. The plant subsequently went on a one-day week.

"Now, we can switch to a four-day week and increase production from 260 to 800 cars a week. The big cut in production was not due solely to the recession in sales. When Datsun drives in, page 19

### Bank unions reject 8.5pc pay offer

Union negotiators yesterday rejected an 8.5 per cent offer made to 170,000 staff in the five main clearing banks.

Representatives of both the Banking, Insurance and Finance Union (BIFU), and the Clearing Bank Union (CBU) will resume talks in a fortnight with the Federation of London Clearing Bank Employers which was adamant last night that the settlement from April should be in single figures.

### Massey delays annual meeting

Massey-Ferguson is delaying its annual meeting from March to April to allow more time for clarification of its financing plan for which an agreement was reached with its major lenders earlier this month in London.

The company said that negotiations with lenders, particularly for the support from the governments of Canada and Ontario were continuing.

### Bristol opposes bid

Bristol Evening Post group, which publishes the Evening Post, the Western Daily Press and New Observer is opposing the £7.76m bid of 190p a share from Associated Newspapers. The company is waiting for Associated to send out its formal offer before giving details of its opposition.

### Glass investment

Glass manufacturers in Britain will be investing £21m this year in plant and new technology, Mr. David Margand marketing director of United Glass said in Glasgow.

### More liquidations

More than 6,800 companies went into liquidation last year, 52 per cent more than in the previous year, Mr. Reginald Eyre, Under Secretary for Trade, said in a Commons written reply.

### Wall Street up

The Dow Jones industrial average closed at 948.89, up 6.31 on Wall Street yesterday. The S-DJR was 1,250.71 and the E-SDR was 0.520804.

### PRICE CHANGES

Rises	
AAH	6p to 180p
Avon Industries	40p to 41p
Lawson, Sunday	6p to 25p
Int Thomson	8p to 30p
Lincolnt Kilgour	5p to 25p

Falls	
Anglo Am Gold	53 to 53 1/2
Aurora Gold	20p to 24p
Cap Gold Fds	20p to 44p
Japan	51p to 51p
Kiwiess	31p to 52 1/2p

### THE POUND

Bank	
Australia	2.12
Austria Sch	37.00
Belgium Fr	32.50
Canada	2.95
Denmark Kr	15.95
Finland Bkk	9.90
France Fr	11.28
Germany DM	5.37
Greece Dr	122.00
Hong Kong	12.95
Ireland Pt	1.35
Italy Lir	2480.00
Japan Yen	513.00
Netherlands Gld	5.35

Bank	
Norway Kr	13.35
Portugal Esc	136.50
South Africa Rd	2.30
Spain Pta	201.00
Sweden Kr	11.70
Switzerland Fr	10.82
USA Ctr	2.46
Yugoslavia Dnr	88.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International.

Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.





## US oil price move welcomed

The European Commission yesterday welcomed President Ronald Reagan's decision to advance the timetable for decontrolling the price of oil and oil products in the United States as a step towards better trade relations between the United States and Europe.

In a brief statement, the Commission said the move should contribute to a solution of the important problem of price distortion of American exports in oil derived products such as petrochemicals and textiles. EEC members have long argued that dual pricing in the United States gave American chemical products an unfair advantage on the European market and the big gains made by United States exporters helped to sour trade relations between the two sides.

### EEC inflation up

December consumer prices in the European Community rose 0.8 per cent in a month and 13.3 per cent from December, 1979, the Eurostat agency reported. It said the average 1980 increase for the community was 13.8 per cent—a sharp upturn from 1979 inflation of 9.9 per cent and the 1978 rate of 7.5 per cent, and higher than the American climb of 13.5 per cent.

### Japanese incomes

Average real income of Japanese salaried workers rose in November for the second consecutive month, but spending continued to decline because of inflation. Average incomes in the month were 293,630 yen (£587), up 9.2 per cent in nominal terms and up 0.7 per cent in real terms from a year before.

### Energy credit

A syndicate of 62 leading institutions is to provide \$1,400m (£583m) for Woodside Petroleum towards funding its 50 per cent share of the Australian North West Shelf project involving supply of gas and other products to various customers.

### Iran repaying loans

Iran is believed to be repaying, before maturity, \$660m (£275m) of loans provided for the Japanese-Iranian joint venture to build a petrochemical complex at Bandar Khomeini.

# Mercedes backs anti-skid braking

By Clifford Webb  
Midland Industrial Correspondent

Mercedes Benz, Europe's largest manufacturer of heavy trucks, caused quite a stir in the boardrooms of its competitors yesterday by announcing that it is to go into production of an anti-skid braking system for its trucks and buses.

Until now, the only anti-skid devices available have been offered by component manufacturers for fitting as optional extras. The fact that Mercedes Benz found all these systems wanting for one reason or another weighed heavily with truck operators on the Continent, who tend to equate the Stuttgart company with all that is best in commercial vehicle engineering.

Operators who have held back may now be persuaded to change their minds on the premise that "if it is good enough for Mercedes it is good enough for me".

The havoc wrought by the scything effect of a jackknifed articulated truck and ways of countering it, have been the subject of intensive research for at least 20 years. Dunlop was early into the field 10 years ago with the Maxar system; followed six years later by Girling's Skid-check.

The result is that today there are more vehicles fitted with anti-skid systems, in

Britain than anywhere in Europe. Dunlop claims to have 10,000 systems on the road and Girling 4,000.

Most are either petrol tankers or vehicles carrying loads such as chemicals. In almost all cases, the use of anti-skid devices and the type installed have been the subject of detailed negotiations with the Transport and General Workers' Union, representing the drivers.

Anti-skid received a severe setback two years ago after the United States Government introduced premature legislation to make it compulsory. The rush to install systems became such a bonanza that up to 15 manufacturers appeared on the market. Many of them were under-developed, and the consequences were inevitable—accidents and retributions.

After a law suit brought by vehicle manufacturers, the legislation was withdrawn. But the image of anti-skid systems had been damaged.

Mercedes Benz is demonstrating its system known simply as ABS, to the European press in the snow and ice of Finland north of the Arctic circle. The system's ability to keep a vehicle on a straight line under emergency braking is quite uncanny.

A microcomputer controls and reacts to sensors installed on each wheel, prevent-

ing it from locking. The system was developed jointly with Wabco, Hannover, a subsidiary of the American Westinghouse group, which will produce all the electronic components.

Reliability has been the potential Achilles heel of complicated anti-skid devices subjected to the extreme conditions encountered by hauliers. Mercedes admits that ABS is complicated, but insists that it is being manufactured to more testing standards than those used in the aircraft industry.

Some British insurance companies already reduce premiums by up to 15 per cent for trucks fitted with approved anti-skid systems. Mercedes has opened negotiations with engineering experts serving the German insurance market, which may lead to minimum guarantee discounts.

One problem is that an articulated tractor may pull as many as six different trailers in a week. Until they are all fitted with anti-skid systems, a driver could, in the words of one operator, "forget for one second which trailer he is pulling and sideswipe everything on all three lanes of a motorway".

Mercedes is fitting its trucks with a red warning light which illuminates immediately a "bare" trailer is coupled in an attempt to reduce this risk.

## Treasury Secretary outlines strong economic policies

# White House 'taking a scalpel' to all areas of public spending

From Frank Vogt  
United States Economics Correspondent  
Washington, Jan 29

Mr Donald Regan, the Secretary of the Treasury, asserted today that policies were being formulated to strengthen the economy so that the United States could again be "the engine that drives up international economic growth".

Mr Regan predicted that United States interest rates would move downwards soon. He said that the Treasury had no plans to resume gold sales, stressing that this "is a free market administration" which will firmly oppose all forms of trade protectionism.

In a wide ranging discussion the Treasury Secretary outlined with foreign correspondents, the new administration's domestic and foreign economic policies, disclosing details of tax cutting and public spending proposals. Mr Regan has met more than 10 times in the last 15 days with President Reagan to discuss ways of reducing public spending.

Mr Regan said that much more generous depreciation allowances would be announced for businesses when the new economic programme was released by the President on February 17 or 18. Income taxes would be reduced sharply in a multi-year tax plan. The top rate of individual income tax may be cut to 63 per cent from 70 per cent, and over three years it is to be brought down to 50 per cent.

Such moves, the Secretary stressed, would automatically cut capital gains taxes, so that the present 28 per cent rate would be down to 20 per cent over three years. These cuts and the other tax cuts would lead to much higher savings and investment and so stimulate productivity, Mr Regan said.

The tax cuts would be so designed that the richest Americans received the largest tax reductions, he said. He saw nothing wrong with this, and said this approach would produce the largest gain in savings. The tax cuts might not be paid out before the late summer and the question was still open as to whether or not they would be made retrospective to the beginning of this year.

Mr Regan said the Administration was "taking a scalpel" to all sectors of public spending. Welfare programmes would be cut and so too would foreign aid. The Treasury has not yet decided where to make the foreign aid cuts, but the economic plan will provide the first clues as to where this Administration stands in regard to the world banking group.

Mr Regan insisted that he and other leaders of the Administration were fervently in favour of free trade, and efforts would not be made to block Japanese car imports, for example. The previous Administration had decided to give further aid to Chrysler and his job was to see that the company met all the new loan conditions. He refused to speculate on what he would do if Chrysler failed to meet the conditions and faced bankruptcy.

## Dow raising price of chemicals by 30pc

Dow Europe is raising the price of most of its organic chemical and plastic products by about 30 per cent over the next three months, and has said that further increases are planned from April.

The company, which is part of the world's sixth largest chemicals group, clearly hopes that its lead will be quickly followed by its competitors in western Europe and restore profitability among all producers.

Its initiative comes after prices slumped from the second quarter to 20 to 30 per cent below those at the start of 1980. Other attempts, towards the end of last year, to raise prices, proved generally unsuccessful. Dow explained yesterday that while prices had slumped, costs had continued to climb. Although the intense pressure on the cost of feedstocks, primarily naphtha-based in 1980, it now stood some 200 per cent higher than in 1978. Moreover, naphtha prices for the first quarter of 1981 rose by more than 15 per cent over the previous three months.

Dow has posted a new price for polystyrene (PS) of DM2.65 for the last quarter of 1980, for the first quarter of 1981. Prices for low density polyethylene (LDPE) are set to rise to DM2.45 a tonne, against DM1.75 and DM2.15. These basic plastics are widely used for consumer goods, film and packaging.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# Economic charges for energy

From Mr T. H. H. Skeet, MP for Bedford (Conservative)

As you correctly indicated in your editorial of January 8, charging for energy at economic rates has much to commend it, but care must be taken not to impair the competitiveness of British industry. It is the interrelation of these two elements that matters, and they specifically relate to the energy-intensive industries such as iron and steel, bricks, pottery, cement and chemicals, where energy costs may exceed well over 15 per cent of total costs.

It should be recalled, however, that so called economic rates may be distorted by altering the external financing limits of the energy supply industry and by maintaining taxes on petroleum products at rates not sustainable elsewhere in Western Europe, viz on fuel oil. It is self-evident that 8p per ton in France compares unfavourably with £3.55 in the Federal Republic of Germany and £2 per ton in the United Kingdom. The totality of excise duties on hydrocarbons, vehicle excise duty, petroleum revenue tax, royalties and corporation tax reached in 1979-80 £8.1

million. Must the tax received from fuel oil be reimposed upon the petroleum industry and its customers which are already taking a disproportionate load? Further, if the levy in prospect for the British Gas Corporation was applied not in topping up the Consolidated Fund, but in allowing the industry to make discounts for large industrial users, much along the lines of European practice, many of the arguments would be obviated.

Further, the pricing of natural gas in the United Kingdom is computed from a different base in the several countries of the EEC. Approximating the price of gas to oil which currently figures at 40.80p per therm, it would work out rather differently if fuel oil (the EEC base) at 27.80p per therm was employed. The price of petroleum products differs through out Europe due in part to the proximity of the Rotterdam spot market and consequent reductions of distribution costs. While Mr Lamont indicated that the British Gas Corporation was moderating its policy in relating gas prices to the equivalent oil product, viz

about 75 per cent of the gas oil price for renewed contracts, he made this caveat: that while on present plans he expected that policy to continue, the gap would gradually narrow over a period of years.

The United Kingdom must take seriously the position of the energy-intensive industries. Expensive coal makes dear electricity by any economic standards and this has implications for the ailing steel industry. Premature overexpansion of coal when its market has yet to materialize and the delay in putting into operation a vigorous nuclear power programme can only serve to emphasize the astuteness of the French who, added to a large hydro electric investment, are pressing urgently ahead with massive installations of nuclear power, including the fast reactor. If Britain's oil, gas and coal reserves were the property of the French and West Germans I have no doubt the course they would have taken. Yours faithfully, TREVOR SKEET, House of Commons, London, SW1.

## Key to reducing costs

From Professor H. J. Pick

Sir, The British Institute of Management and the Henley Management College are to be commended on taking a new initiative in a most important area of company operation—the purchasing of materials and components (Patricia Tisdall's article, January 26). The cost of materials and components, as the article points out, commonly accounts for 30 per cent to 60 per cent of product costs. Purchasing procedures need to be given considerable weight, as does the whole field of materials management.

May I, however, draw attention to the fact that purchasing and materials management in the industrial sector cannot, on their own, achieve the full potential for cost reduction and profit improvement inherent in the effective use of materials. In companies making engineering products purchasing departments can only minimize costs within the context of the technical specification laid down by engineering. A change in the specification of a material can sometimes lead to far greater cost reduction than any amount of shopping around.

There is often equal scope for cost reduction through improved materials utilization: 50 per cent or more of the materials purchased by firms are commonly reduced to waste by inherently wasteful processes such as machining and pressing. Improvements in design and changes in manufacturing methods can lead to large reductions in material requirements.

It is the "engineering dimension" to use the Finniston report's terminology, which holds the key to cost effectiveness in this area. Purchasing and materials management are indeed vitally important. But it is at least equally important to ensure that design and production are fully involved in the processes of cost minimization. The Institute of Management and the Henley Management College will be aware of the above points. The purpose of this letter is to bring them to the notice of your readers. H. J. PICK, Professor of Materials Technology, Department of Mechanical Engineering, The University of Aston, Birmingham, B4 7ET.

## Styles of leadership

From Mr David Simpson

Sir, Watching the antics of our leading politicians during recent years it has been tempting to consider the country being run by some of our top businessmen. Such solid and able men would get on with the running of our economy without the distractions of the adversary style of our parliamentary system and without preoccupations with puerile squabbles between "wets" and "dries".

Reading your reports (January 21) on the manoeuvring amongst the directors of the House of Fraser prompts the realization that we enjoy better fortune with our political masters than we thought. One director bets that he will unseat the chairman by the end of the year despite two overwhelming defeats on the issue in seven months. A million pounds of the shareholders' money has already been spent on the affair. How such a board can carry on the direction of what seems a successful company must be the concern of most of us, especially the majority of the shareholders and the employees. Yours faithfully, DAVID SIMPSON, Cass La Lioma, Barranquet 5, Altea, Alicante, Spain.

## Taking trees seriously

From Mr Norman Jenkins

Sir, If hedgerow trees are to be taken seriously (January 15) then in addition to planting trees for energy (January 15 and January 9) why not collect them almost ready for use—in town. Not a new idea, it is proven practice.

There is a very large industry devoted to planting timber for paper that eventually gets buried as waste, only a part being recycled. There are several specially built incinerator plants producing both electricity and hot water in the United Kingdom, many more elsewhere; there is a new concept of producing pellets of waste paper, cellulose from trees, that can be used in normal boilers. Brighton power station has been using a proportion in its fuel for some time, its thermal value approximating to half that of coal for a third of the price.

I have no commercial interest in this or any other related process—directly comparable with burning logs as fuel. The economies are becoming more and more favourable, the importance in energy strategy less and less, as more spectacular forms of spending money gain favour. How could there be any better way of investing North Sea profits reducing the overall energy bill? Local authorities cannot find the money, some just do not want to know. Energy is not their concern; the direction of energy strategy of which this is an important part is, horrifyingly, no one's concern. Yours very truly, NORMAN JENKINS, Whitehill, Ewshot, Farnham, Surrey, GU10 5BS, January 16.

## Investment of pension funds

From Mr D. A. Kitchner

Sir, I am sure most people would agree that trade unions should fight to get pension funds to invest in industry. A start could be made by the three big nationalized firms, i.e. British Rail, British Steel and the Coal Board, to invest most of their pension funds in their own industry, along with the taxpayer. I am sure that the TUC would not want the pension fund to have preferential treatment over the taxpayer and would invest with equal risk. Yours faithfully, D. A. KITCHNER, The Grange, Houghton Conquest, Bedford, January 19.

## Insurance and nuclear safety

From Sir Kelvin Spencer

Sir, We are continually being assured that nuclear energy is quite safe. So isn't it time that car insurance policies omitted the clause that exempts insurers from "all legal liability of whatsoever nature" from insuring radiation? Policies contained no such clause before nuclear power stations came on the scene. Yours faithfully, KELVIN SPENCER, Wootton, Branscombe, Dorset, EX12 3DN, January 22.

## Blues Brothers cost

From Mr John Landis

Sir, Ivor Davis's article "Shadows on the silver screen" (January 9) has just been brought to my attention. I would like to correct the errors regarding myself. The Blues Brothers did not cost £35m. It cost \$27m, which I would think is quite enough to thank you. It is now in profit, which is certainly not the impression given by Mr Davis's facile and trendy coverage of the film industry. To make points journalists often tend to repeat other journalists' inaccuracies. Yours faithfully, JOHN LANDIS, The Lycanthrope Films Limited, 29, St James's Street, London, SW1 1HB, January 15.

## Airmail rate increases

From Mr H. G. Conway

Sir, I see that the airmail postage rates have risen today (January 26) from a basic 14p to 20p, a rise of almost 43 per cent compared with 33 per cent for surface post overseas or about 17 per cent inland. One

wonders how the Post Office can justify such a high rise. Yours faithfully, H. G. CONWAY, 33 Sussex Square, London, W2, January 26.

## Nuclear shelters

From Dr R. C. W. Cox

Sir, Many of our readers who have investments, however modest, in one or more building societies will have been interested in your report (January 23) that the Woolwich Building Society is prepared to grant mortgages for nuclear shelters.

If the threat of nuclear war diminishes, these buildings will lose their value and so be unacceptable security in the event of the default of the mortgage. If the threat of nuclear war increases, no insurance company will be prepared to cover the risk to such buildings.

In any event, one must challenge the morality of a building society doing anything to encourage the idea that people could survive a nuclear war, thus diminishing our resolve that such a thing will never happen. Yours faithfully, R. C. W. COX, 69 Westfield Avenue, Sandstead, Surrey, January 25.

## Japan trade concessions 'insufficient'

Tokyo, Jan 29. — Japan announced today that it would export cars "prudently" to West Germany, Luxembourg, Belgium and The Netherlands in a package of concessions designed to improve its trading relationship with the European Economic Community.

The concessions, capping two days of high-level talks here, were termed insufficient but "a step in the right direction" by Sir Roy Deelman, the EEC director-general for external relations. In a declaration of policy issued last November, the EEC declared that Japan must liberalize its markets if its \$10,000m (about £4,132m) trade with Europe was ever going to be reduced. The concessions announced by Mr Kiyoaki Kikuchi, Japan's deputy foreign minister and chief trade negotiator, pledged to "moderate" car exports to West Germany and the three Benelux countries; curtail exports of colour television sets to West Germany; provide access for European companies to Japanese Government purchases in the \$3,300m-a-year market in telecommunications equipment; and to introduce "substantial" tariff cuts on tobacco.

Japan also pledged to send import missions soon to EEC countries and to receive an EEC investment mission in Japan. The meeting agreed to co-operate not only in trade but also in investment, research and development and industrial projects in third countries. Sir Roy said that "a substantial gap" remained between Japan's concessions and EEC demands. Restrictions on Japanese colour television tubes as well as sets had been hoped for, along with increased Japanese buying of advanced machine-tools.

Sir Roy said he would report back to the EEC Commission next week, and to the Council of Ministers, Europe's official policy-making body, on February 17.

In preliminary talks on Wednesday the EEC delegation, one of the largest European trade missions to visit Japan to date, pointed out that Japanese exports to EEC countries last year leaped 30 per cent while EEC exports to Japan rose by only 3 per cent.

Sir Roy dismissed the notion that he came to Japan to negotiate hard-and-fast agreements and said the main purpose of his visit was to sound out Tokyo on the statement made by Council of Ministers, which concluded that protectionist sentiment in Europe would increase unless certain adjustments were made in the bilateral trading relationship.

## Managers support plans for Engineering Council

By Derek Harris

Withdrawal of cooperation by the leading professional engineering bodies from the Government's proposed watchdog for engineering was strongly criticized yesterday by Mr John Lyons, general secretary of the Engineers' and Managers' Association (EMA). The TUC-affiliated EMA, which has a large membership of professional engineers, has backed the setting up of a powerful new body to succeed the Council of Engineering Institutions (CEI).

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, whose plans to launch the new Engineering Council are in jeopardy because of the profession's action, "should not give in to the presidents of the institutions," Mr Lyons said. The said taken by the presidents and the CEI was entirely unjustified.

He added: "If Sir Keith goes



Sir Roy Deelman: "A step in the right direction".

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N.V. KONINKLIJKE NEDERLANDSCHE  
PETROLEUM-MAATSCHAPPIJ

Established at The Hague, The Netherlands

(Royal Dutch)

### GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

to be held on Wednesday 25th February, 1981, at 10.30 a.m. in the "Nederlands Congresgebouw", 10 Churchillplein, The Hague, The Netherlands.

#### AGENDA:

1. Proposal to amend the Articles of Association and to authorize the Board of Management—in accordance with the provisions in Article 124, Book 2 of the Netherlands Civil Code—to make any changes considered necessary by the Ministry of Justice.

This agenda and the proposal to amend the Articles of Association are available for inspection and may be obtained by shareholders free of charge at the Company's office, 30 Carél van Bylandtlaan, The Hague, and at the head offices of the banks mentioned below.

A. Holders of share certificates to bearer may—either in person or by proxy—attend and exercise the voting rights in their share certificates, or evidence that their certificates are held in ones for by De Nederlandsche Bank N.V., are deposited against receipt not later than 19th February, 1981, at one of the banks mentioned below, viz:

In The Netherlands  
Algemene Bank Nederland N.V.; Amsterdam-Rotterdam Bank N.V.; Bank Van der Hoop Offens N.V.; Bank Mies & Hope N.V.; Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas N.V.; Kas-Associatie N.V.; Pierson, Holding & Pierson N.V.

In Austria  
Creditanstalt-Bankverein, Vienna; Österreichische Länderbank AG, Vienna; Schoeller & Co., Vienna.

In Belgium  
Société Générale de Banque S.A., Brussels; Crédit Lyonnais, Brussels; Kredietbank N.V., Brussels.

In the Federal Republic of Germany  
Deutsche Bank AG, Frankfurt/Main, Düsseldorf, Hamburg or Munich; Dresdner Bank AG, Frankfurt/Main, Düsseldorf, Hamburg, Munich or Saarbrücken; Deutsche Bank Berlin AG, Berlin; Bank für Handel und Industrie AG, Berlin; Deutsche Bank Saar AG, Saarbrücken.

In France  
Lazard Frères & Cie, Paris.

In Luxembourg  
Banque Internationale à Luxembourg S.A., Luxembourg.

In Switzerland  
Schweizerische Kreditanstalt, Zürich; Schweizerischer Bankverein, Basel; Schweizerische Bankgesellschaft, Zürich; Bank Leu AG, Zürich; Pictet & Cie, Geneva.

In the United Kingdom  
N.M. Rothschild & Sons Limited, London.

In the United States of America  
The Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A., New York.

B. Holders of registered shares may—either in person or by proxy—attend the meeting and exercise the voting rights if they make known to the Company in writing not later than 18th February, 1981, their desire to do so:

with respect to shares of The Hague Registry:  
at the Company's office at The Hague;  
with respect to shares of Amsterdam Registry:  
at the office of Algemene Bank Nederland N.V., C.K.E., P.O. Box 2230, Breda, The Netherlands;  
with respect to shares of New York Registry:  
at the office of The Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A., New York.

C. Holders of certificates for "New York shares", which are depositary receipts issued pursuant to an agreement dated 10th September, 1978, under which The Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A., is successor depositary, may—either in person or by proxy—attend and exercise the meeting if their certificates, for "New York shares" are deposited against receipt not later than 19th February, 1981, at Algemene Bank Nederland N.V., C.K.E., P.O. Box 2230, Breda, The Netherlands, or The Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A., New York.

What is stated above with respect to the availability for inspection or the possibility of obtaining the agenda and the proposal to amend the Articles of Association likewise applies to holders of priority shares and holders of certificates for "New York shares".

The Hague, 30th January, 1981

The Supervisory Board



BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## The banks and industry

Circumstances have been forcing the Bank of England to take an increasing interest in industrial affairs. While its industrial financial division has been in existence for many years, it is relatively recently that the Bank has taken an active part in industrial affairs. If the recession goes on it might soon have to encourage some major strategic decisions on British banking practice.

At present the division is run from head office and its task is one of monitoring and liaison between banks and industry. It is backed by direct contacts between Bank governors and directors, usually non-executive, of major industrial companies. In regional offices the local agents play a similar role of contact men in their own areas.

Overall, the Bank is able to build a good picture on what goes on in the ground. There are times when it acts directly involved in troubled matters acting as an honest broker between the parties. So far it has refrained from encouraging any change in banking practice of short- and medium-term lending to industrial customers.

Can it afford to do so for much longer? In the German slump of the 20s the banks became deeply embroiled in industry. This was not always a successful partnership, but at the time it was felt essential for the survival of German industry. With bankruptcies mounting and the recession continuing such strategy might even become part of discussions on the sort of problems which the banks and some of their industrial customers are now facing, though it would of course run quite counter to traditional prudential banking practice in this country.

### Airfix

#### Receivership was inevitable

Airfix Industries has been teetering on the brink of disaster for so long that news of its receivership is no surprise.

Like Dunbee Combe Marx, and other less known toy manufacturers, it has fallen victim to the impact of the recession, a strong pound and high interest rates.

In Airfix's case it is clear that the financial package agreed with the banks last November has come unstuck. It involved the sale of two major subsidiaries and the reduction of borrowings at a given rate. Bank borrowings at the 1980 balance sheet stood at £23m and are around £15m thanks to the sales.

But the package also involved the production of monthly reports and projections. These showed that, although the group was profitable on trading grounds, it would have needed more cash than had been anticipated. It is this that precipitated the crisis. Although the receivers hope to sell subsidiaries as going concerns any payment to shareholders looks a remote possibility.

A last ditch effort by Warburgs to save the company was ingenious but ran up against traditional British clearing banking practice. It involved a package of capitalizing about half of the debt, an interest forgiveness element and rolling up interest on medium-term loans.

The banks clearly felt that, after the troubles at Meccano, the sale of the profitable Crayonette and Declon Plastics companies was not enough to save Airfix. But even so the most important influence on their minds seems to have been a reluctance to convert overdrafts into equity, a practice widespread elsewhere—as the recent Massey Ferguson affair shows—but not accepted—or perhaps not yet—in Britain.

### BPC

#### A wall of silence

Fears about the future of BPC, the beleaguered publishing and printing group were not allayed by the wall of silence surrounding events at the group yesterday. The shares slipped 1p to 16p, 9p below par value, so Mr Robert Maxwell, of Pergamon, is nursing a paper loss of over £1m on the 29.5 per cent stake acquired in last July's dawn raid.

With BPC fighting labour battles on

several fronts, the interim loss of £6.5m looks certain to rise to at least £10m for the full-year. Meanwhile, sale of the group's *Janes* division for £3m is of only marginal help given borrowings which at the last accounting date exceeded shareholders' funds by around £4m at over £40m, a large part of that owed to the National Westminster Bank.

The main hope on the trading front is the arrival at its Sun Printers subsidiary in July of the bulk of the TV Times printing contract estimated to be worth around £15m a year to BPC. But July is a long way off and in the meantime BPC seems to be running into severe competition on contracts from continental operators.

Mr Maxwell, meanwhile, has yet to make his intentions clear, although he has received clearance to make a full bid. Presumably the attraction is assets of around 80p a share at BPC which includes modern plant sufficient to satisfy a huge increase in capacity when publishing climbs out of recession.

Those assets support what otherwise looks like an awful trading situation at BPC and shareholders now need to be told what the exact position is as soon as possible.

Thomas Borthwick was tottering on the edge of the precipice at the end of last year after chalking up £10.5m of profit losses and falling into technical default on a large part of its borrowings. However, it has managed to win the indulgence of its numerous bankers, reaching agreement on debt defaults which incurred it a "going concern" qualification in the last accounts.

At a later stage Borthwick will set about restructuring its balance sheet on a more permanent basis. The banks for their part have wanted commitments from Borthwick. No longer will Borthwick be taking such big positions in the meat market and stocks at the end of 1980 were £20m lower than a year previously with over half beef stocks already committed compared with 30 per cent.

The changes in strategy in meat reduce both the risks and the potential rewards and apart from its butchers shops which are doing well, the rest of Borthwick is likely to have a difficult year in 1980-81. Still Borthwick's future looks a bit clearer now and the shares firmed 1p to 30p yesterday.

### Racal

#### Decca sees profits

It has taken Racal six months to bring Decca's losses under control, and it has done so convincingly. By the end of this year, then, Decca, with the aid of disposals to come, should be making a positive contribution before interest charges.

At the interim stage Racal profits are 13½ per cent ahead at £26.5m on a 20 per cent sales increase. That in turn masks a loss of £5.2m from Decca (split as to £3m on capital goods and £2m on consumer products which should run off through the disposal of the television business soon) while on the positive side there is one-third improvement to £34m in the profits from the ramp of the Racal business.

That was achieved on a 40 per cent sales increase which demonstrates that Racal is not immune from the general pressure on margins. Nevertheless, Racal emerges confidently on the back of splendid business, notably in its tactical radio equipment divisions and from its fairly recently acquired North American businesses, Vadic and Milgo. These data transmission operations now contribute around 25 per cent of total sales and margins are coming into line with traditional Racal standards.

Meanwhile, Racal has raised the interim dividend by just over 9 per cent to 1.64p a share gross which augurs well for the year, although Racal at 31½ still yields around 2 per cent. So the market is still looking for growth. Racal itself forecasts higher profits this year and, despite some pressure on financing new business, partly because of a reluctance by customers to put up large prepayments, it has the balance sheet capacity to cope.

Gearing is now around 75 per cent, and due to come down by the year-end if only because of the £25m likely from the sale of the television business and Decca House.

Japanese plans for a car manufacturing plant in Britain could create 4,500 jobs

## When Datsun drives in . . .

In a brief speech which attracted little attention at the time Mr Yuzo Hatano, a senior Japanese diplomat in London, said earlier this month: "In the area of industrial cooperation and exchange there is a need for more mutual investment by Britain and Japan."

What the rest of us now know (and what Mr Hatano must have been aware of for some months) is that Japan's second largest motor manufacturer (and biggest exporter to Britain) is planning a huge new greenfield investment in the United Kingdom. It should not only create valuable new jobs at a time of steeply rising unemployment but also do something for trade relations between the two countries.

Actively encouraged, it seems, by the British Government which has been worried about the impact of unemployment, Nissan Datsun plans to establish a manufacturing plant costing an estimated £300m on an 800-acre site. It will employ about 4,500 workers and produce about 200,000 vehicles a year by 1986.

This big investment is clearly part of a larger European marketing strategy.

That the plan should have been made known within three days of the announcement by Sir Keith Joseph, the Industry Secretary, of nearly £1,000m worth of further money to finance British Leyland's recovery programme over the next two years is, to say the least, unfortunate.

But clearly ministers calculate that the attraction of such a significant inward investment and the jobs which Nissan will provide, will more than compensate for expressions of concern that a Japanese Trojan horse is moving in, which will threaten the whole future of the United Kingdom based motor industry.

The venture will attract substantial Government financial assistance under the Industry Act, just as Ford's new engine plant at Bridgend in South Wales did three years ago.

The Nissan project will consolidate Britain's position as a favoured location for Japanese investment in Europe. At the beginning of this year total investment by Japanese companies in the United Kingdom was estimated to be £844m, representing a large slice of the Japanese stake in Europe.

Over the past few years Tokyo has been one of the favourite destinations of British ministers and civil servants in the search for Japanese companies willing to commit funds for investment here. They have not been disappointed. The generous financial incentives available to companies investing in the so-called assisted areas has attracted a steady trickle of blue chip Japanese companies to Britain—Sony, Matsushita, Toshiba, the Besting company, Nissan and Nissan Electric to name but a few. But the Nissan venture will dwarf everything that has gone before.

It is equally clear that the company appears to be developing a long-term strategy for Europe against the background of the growing tension between the European Community and Japan over trade.

Nissan's vehicle exports (cars, trucks and buses) to Europe last year are estimated to have totalled 336,000—an increase of nearly 17 per cent on the previous year's level which was itself 41 per cent above the 1978 figure. Total Nissan exports of vehicles to all markets last year reached an estimated 1,463,000, up by 29 per cent on the 1979 figure.

This year the company plans to increase its overseas ship-

### NISSAN'S WORLD MARKET

(Number of vehicles)

North America	655,000
Europe	336,000
Middle East	157,000
Africa	95,000
Southeast Asia	92,000
Central & S America	82,000
Oceania	46,000

Source: Nissan Motor Co Ltd

### EXPORTS BY TYPE

	1979	% change	1980 (estimate)	% change
CARS	236,578	+13.1	1,054,000	+26.0
TRUCKS	228,521	-10.7	392,000	+35.4
BUSES	7,992	+31.3	17,000	+122.7
Total	1,134,191	+6.0	1,463,000	+29.0

\* Excludes knock-down kits

ments by only 1 per cent—reflecting perhaps the worries of the hard-pressed European companies and growing protectionist pressures in Europe and the United States. It will be those worries which will be explored next week in talks between the Japanese and European manufacturers in Lisbon.

In the frictions which have characterized trade relations for the past six years, Nissan has been among the more sensitive of Japanese companies. For that reason it was anxious that the negotiations over its United Kingdom venture should be conducted as far as possible in the open.

It appears that the United Kingdom was the first choice for what will be the largest single investment by any Japanese company in Europe.

Talks have been taking place for almost a year. Nissan appears to have been less influenced by the financial inducements available than by other attractions.

Datsun UK, the British company which markets Nissan cars, has managed to establish a comprehensive dealer network and Nissan executives have been impressed by Britain's highly productive and successful components industry. There is even a possibility that some of the components may be subcontracted to BL. Another attraction was that English is Japan's traditional second language.

Traditional engineering skills and fairly low labour costs compared with those in other European centres must also have weighed heavily.

Nissan executives privately admit to admiration for British managerial and technical skills

(although the cars will be designed in Japan) and are aware that their own corporate management is already stretched because of expanding overseas interests in Mexico, Australia and the United States.

The Japanese company's initial thinking about the United Kingdom operation envisages a production start-up, on two tracks, by the end of 1984, covering six basic front-wheel drive models with as yet undecided engine variants. The United Kingdom and continental content will amount to 60 per cent in value terms.

This proportion would include the purchase of standard parts and possibly assembly of engines, transmissions, axles and steering units.

The cars will be welded, painted and finally assembled at the new plant. Production will build up to a planned 200,000 units a year by 1986, when it is envisaged that the local content will be 80 per cent and will then include body panels and production of the "powertrain" (transmission, gearbox and engine).

The component business should help to safeguard an estimated 30,000 jobs in that sector of the industry and provisional planning envisages a substantial re-export of components, in Japan as well as other countries.

The feasibility studies into the venture will not be completed in four months, but possible locations have been narrowed down to four sites—South Wales, Humberside, the North-west and the north-east coast.

Wherever the venture is expressed in Britain and the rest of the EEC about the longer term implications of the proposed venture, both ministers and Nissan itself are clearly confident that the project will play an important role in cementing relations between the two countries and in the short-term will provide a much needed fillip to a large section of manufacturing industry.

Peter Hill and Edward Townsend

### Technology

## Prince Albert would have approved

There is a lot more to the Finistron Report on the engineering profession, published twelve months ago, than the proposal for a statutory engineering authority or council. Sir Monty and his committee know this, but in the world at large this "lot more" has been completely submerged in the deluge of controversy that has descended on to the subject of the authority.

The firm item in the Finistron Committee's summary of its 80 recommendations says this, for example: "The regeneration of United Kingdom manufacturing competitiveness must be given overriding priority in national policies, with the emphasis on creating a market-oriented engineering excellence in the products made by British industry and in the production of them."

There is another phrase for "market-oriented engineering excellence": it is good design. The principles of good design are much discussed but little acted-on. One of the better discussions was the report *Product Design*, which Mr Kenneth Corfield (now Sir Kenneth) wrote in 1978 for the National Economic Development Office.

"It is the designer's job," he noted, "to create competitive and saleable goods in the least expensive and most efficient way. He has to optimize his use of available resources, both raw materials and components, the working and fixed capital, and the use of energy in the

manufacture of the product as well as in its utilization.

"He has to make the best use of labour at all levels; and finally he has to design his product to minimize ecological problems of effluents, hazards, noise and even the cost of the eventual disposal of the product when it has fulfilled its useful life."

That is a demanding job specification. So what has happened since the words of wisdom from Sir Monty and Sir Kenneth? Their statements embrace both engineering design and in the references to market orientation and competitive goods, industrial or aesthetic design, too.

But industrial and engineering design have been an odd couple, coexisting uneasily in the past. Welded together effectively, they could work wonders for Britain's industrial economy.

One hopes that industry itself is beginning to get the message that an improvement in design contributes basically to improved performance in the marketplace. But for the longer term future the hoped for heightened awareness must come from the educational system.

In South Kensington and Bedfordshire, it is beginning to happen. At the postgraduate level, the Royal College of Art, centre for advanced teaching in industrial design (among many other things), is mounting collaborative initiatives both with Imperial College of Science and Technology (a neighbour on the

South Kensington academic/cultural campus) and with the Centre of Engineering Design at Cranfield Institute of Technology in Bedfordshire.

Joint two-year course in "industrial design engineering" was launched recently by the two South Kensington colleges. In one of the two inaugural lectures on this occasion, Professor Frank Heigh, of the School of Industrial Design at the Royal College of Art traced the historical reasons for today's fragmented pattern in design education and practice.

"We have the separate professionalisms within engineering manufacture as exemplified by the specializations: art, individual loyalties of the engineering institutions; the parallel educational streams of art, science and technology; and the emergence of new disciplines and philosophies pertaining to the general field of design."

"If to this we add the recognition that design, covers an enormous spectrum of products from highly sophisticated high performance equipment through a vast middle range of normal technology and utility to decorative products and even ephemera, and that each of these categories has a separate set of design criteria, priorities and values, the complex and divided nature of design education and practice becomes very apparent."

Design was essentially a professional synthesis, Professor Heigh said. Now it was time for design education and practice to begin to synthesize some of their own disparate elements. Through the joint course with the Mechanical Engineering Department of Imperial College the aim was not to produce Leonardo's or Brunel's — the scale of technology today was too great for that — but to produce well-informed engineers able to deal with a wide range of design factors, from technical and manufacturing feasibility to the aesthetics of industrial design.

Meanwhile, at Cranfield, the Centre of Engineering Design, under Mr David Farrar, has become a focus of interdisciplinary design studies in its new "core course" in engineering design is being taught to 80 postgraduate students from the specialist departments of Cranfield's faculty of engineering, both by Cranfield staff and by visiting lecturers from the RCA and elsewhere.

"We have identified those things which are fundamental to the innovative design of successful engineering products, and these form the basis of the course," Mr Farrar says.

"The scope of the course is unique. Eighty postgraduates a year will certainly make an impact on design in industry and that will show itself in new and better products."

Two fellowships in computer-aided design, one at the RCA and one at Cranfield, have been endowed by the Royal Commission for the exhibition of 1851 (still in being as a body which promotes science and art and their application in industry as originally intended by Prince Albert). Other links between the College and other faculties at Cranfield, including Cranfield School of Management, have also been forged.

These ad hoc moves to synthesize the separate elements of design education may lead to a more permanent arrangement. Professor Heigh is now exploring the idea of a National Institute of Design, probably in the form of a federation of existing design organizations such as the RCA, Imperial College and Cranfield.

"It would provide a centre for the integrated study of the continuum of supporting functions which must precede and follow the design act," he says. "It would not only be a teaching and research institute, but also a powerful ally of government and industry in furthering British Design at the level of intensity and coordination needed to compete today."

For a headquarters, where better than South Kensington? Prince Albert would have approved.

Kenneth Owen

## Business Diary: Datsun's Botnar • On your marks

One intriguing aspect of the plan by Nissan of Japan to build a United Kingdom car assembly plant here is the role that must have been played in discussions with Whitehall by Datsun UK, the British-owned sales company.

Although Nissan's talks with the Government have been one of the best kept secrets of the past year, Datsun's involvement has been even more closely veiled.

This is not surprising, however, given the nature of Datsun's mysterious chairman, Gray Botnar, who has studiously avoided public exposure since he formed the company in 1970.

He is known to be wealthy and a sincere philanthropist, having established, for example, a school for handicapped children at Worthing, where the Datsun headquarters are. But few people know how old he is (possibly around 60) or where he was born, although there has been speculation about East Europe, or Austria. He has homes in London, Switzerland and Spain but the precise location is a matter for speculation.

His private life and how much he earns are nobody's business but his, he says.

His intractability, however, has clearly endeared him to the taciturn Japanese, who have also been impressed by his entrepreneurial skills in building up his company to become by far the leading importer of their cars.

Wallchart INCLUDED IN THE AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MANAGEMENT MEETING....

...IS A PRESENTATION BY THE QUALITY CONTROL MANAGER, ENTITLED....

...MODERN INSPECTION METHODS....

I wonder if Lord Soames and Sir Neville Leigh were fans of ITMA, the wartime radio comedy show?

The war and ITMA are long over, but there is another ITMA. It is still going strong and, what is more, Lord Soames and Sir Neville might find it worth while tuning in to it.

Lord Soames is the Lord President and Sir Neville is Clerk of the Privy Council, the body responsible for the grant of royal charters. ITMA, on the other hand, is the Institute of Trade Mark Agents, whose members advise companies on the selection and protection of an increasingly valuable—and threatened—commercial property.

The association was established before the war by patent agents who saw trade marks being eternal, as likely to rival in importance patents, which—like the agents themselves—one day expire.

ITMA now admits agents to membership (MITMA) through stiff exams, so stiff indeed that last year nobody at all passed. There are about 120 exam-qualified members, but there are twice as many members able

to lay claim to the initials without taking the exams.

This they may do after making a Statutory Declaration that they are faithfully good at trade marks, thanks to an anomaly under which it was the patent and not the trade mark agents who took out the charter before the war and so framed the ITMA articles of association.

Some trade mark agents now say that even big public companies are at risk because some people, however well qualified in patents, can on their own say so set up as trade mark specialists, too.

One camp among the trade mark agents want a merger with the patents people; others say that this would merely institutionalize the patent agents' grip over trade marks. They are considering a breakaway group which would seek a charter of its own making membership contingent upon examination and regulating entry.

Meanwhile, the courts are full of expensive trade mark disputes. Many firms settle out of court, perhaps on good advice, perhaps not. And now over to Lord Soames and Sir Neville...

Brighton, Southend and Clacton may be relieved to hear that this year a continental competitor intends to make a takeover bid for the mods, rockers and Hell's Angels trade.

Alan Branch, Sealink UK's short crossings manager, announced yesterday that the ferry company was trying to channel all motorcycle traffic to the Continent via Dunkirk.

"We think there is a lot of traffic there which has never been properly catered for," he says.

The French vessels which operate the route have been equipped with new bulkhead fittings to accommodate large numbers of motor bikes on the crossing.

Dunkirk, which has of course withstood worse invasions, should be able to cope with anything the British grease and leather gangs can offer. At yesterday's promotional reception in the Café Royal the party from the local chamber of commerce proudly showed a short film of their annual carnival, in the course of which the stolid citizenry daub their faces with outrageously punkish designs and rampage through the streets.

David Colman, son-in-law of William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, has left British Airways, I hear, to take a job with the state corporation's deadly rival, British Caledonian.

Colman, formerly BA's general manager, market development, is to become deputy to BCal marketing director Gordon Davidson, who himself left British Airways a year ago.

One British Airways mole describes this as "the inevitable brain drain which will leave us at least a republic airline," but my information is that there is no undue switch of senior people to the expansion-minded private sector British Caledonian.

Davidson, by the way, had been BA's Concorde director (not a board appointment) and went over to BCal when that company was considering using Concorde on the North-Atlantic.

That idea went out of the window when fuel prices began to shoot up still further, but Davidson was not only asked to stay on at BCal but at the beginning of this year was taken on to the board.

Colman was previously in charge of the marketing side of British Airways cargo.

Happy is the journalist who never has to cut his or her words. Happy still is the lady from a Canadian magazine who, when arrested by the Moroccan police in a border mix-up, culped down her notes and her plastic press card to conceal her calling. She could have been carrying a portable typewriter.

Ross Davies

## Town & City Properties LIMITED

Unaudited Interim Results for the Half Year Ended 23rd September 1980

Year ended	Half Year ended	Half Year ended
24.3.80	23.9.80	23.9.79
£'000	£'000	£'000
18,474	17,596	17,596
Gross income from property	6,735	4,270
Net income from property	7,594	3,553
Income from other sources	14,329	7,773
Less: Interest payable less receivable	(28,709)	(15,372)
	(14,380)	(7,597)
LOSS before taxation	7,251	3,577
Less: Taxation relief	(7,129)	(2,051)
	(94)	(1,010)
Minority interest	14,970	17,593
Realised capital profits	(14,970)	(581)
Transferred to capital reserve	(7,223)	(4,032)
Shortfall of distributable income for period		

### NOTES

1. Realised capital profits less losses and capital charges (after taxation) are made up as follows:

	£'000
Surplus of sale proceeds over original cost of property, less capital gains tax	1,616
Excess of cost of acquisition over book value of net tangible assets of subsidiaries written off in respect of sales	(375)
Net capital losses	(571)

Note: The above surplus on sale of properties has no record to reflection carried in previous years amounting to £1,660,000 which were included in capital reserve and have been written off.

2. The taxation relief included above is £700,000. (Period to 23.9.79 £3,600,000) and is limited by reference to the amount of offsettable chargeable capital gains. Significant losses remain available to be carried forward against future revenue profits.

No dividend is recommended for the period to 23rd September 1980. Since the publication of the annual accounts last July a further £12 million of property has been sold with a book value of £14 million. This brings the total of sales since 23.3.80 to £21 million with a book value of £15 million.



## FINANCIAL NEWS

## Stock markets

## Gilts make progress despite MLR disappointment

An air of expectancy hung over the market yesterday as investors bought stock in the hope of a cut in the minimum lending rate around lunchtime.

After a quiet start, equities rallied on the back of the renewed strength in gilts where the new rap Exchequer 12 per cent 1985 made its debut. Dealers reported strong support by short-term operators banking on a cut in MLR, which was soon followed by genuine investment buying. As a result the Government Broker was able to activate the new tap at £404. It closed at £407.7/16 in the wake of some steady demand. Although there was not cut in MLR, prices in gilts suffered only a slight hiccup and still made up the lost ground after hours. In longs, prices rallied at the close to finish on a high note £1 up, while in shorts gains ranged from £1 to £1.5.

Equities, disappointed by the decision to leave interest rates unchanged, gained some comfort from the full-year figures from Rascal. Those in line with expectations, but buyers seemed delighted with the performance and the price rallied to 320p before profit-taking saw it close at 312p, a rise of 7p.

Electricals gained support after the figures but engineering shares saw further offerings over continued rumours that a leading group had its back to the wall. Gold shares also took another drubbing as the bullion price sank \$34 to \$490.50 and

the gold shares index closed at 281.4, a fall of 25.2.

Jobbers ran into steady profit taking after hours. This was reflected in the FT Index, which closed 3.7 higher at 463.1 having been 4.0 higher at 2 pm.

Leading industrials experienced only minimal support and presented a mixed picture at the close. ICI improved 4p to 290p. Beechams rose 1p to 170p. Glaxo 4p to 260p, Hawker Siddeley 5p to 250p and Dunlop 1p to 61p. Blue Circle fell 2p to 346p. Lucas Ind 3p to 167p and Tate & Lyle 2p to 15p.

Shares of Airfix were suspended at 8p as the group announced that it had called in the receiver and this immediately sent a shiver through the rest

of the toy market. Mottoy eased 1p to 18p and J. W. Spear 3p to 117p. Only Lesney held its ground, closing unchanged at 18p.

On the bid front shares of House of Fraser rose 2p to 143p in the wake of the 150p share bid from Lombar for the remaining 70.5 per cent it does not hold. Lombar closed 2p lighter at 95p. Eva Industries rose 4p to 41p on the £3.74m bid from Anglo-Indonesian while Negretti & Zambra eased 1p to 30p after the rescue operation carried out by Western Scientific Instruments. Greenbank Investments made further progress on the approach from Malton Finance, rising 9p to 160p, and Hawthorn, Leslie advanced 2p to

138p on its rejection of the terms from Starwest Investments.

Speculative attention lifted I. Barget 13p to 132p along with Lincroft Kilgour, 8p to 28p, while in foods Hillards added 5p to 190p. Associated Dairies slip 2p to 176p reflecting the recent £45m cash call to shareholders. Robertson Foods rose 4p to 144p in the wake of its rejection of the bid from Avana, 2p better at 195p, and Thomas Northwick firmed 1p to 30p after the annual meeting. Denbyware was 2p higher at 77p, after a satisfactory statement with Garford Lilley up 1p to 15p. MacCarthy's Pharmaceutical up 3p to 136p, Bullough 1p higher at 149p and Hill & Smith 3p ahead at 59p. F.

Pratt was unchanged at 53p. Allied Textiles rose 3p to 125p, with figures way above expectations. And Textured Jersey hardened 3p to 67p for a similar reason while recovery hopes saw Robert Kitchen Taylor 15p stronger at 125p. In properties Lynton leapt 20p

It has been a busy time for shares of Pritchard Services, which rose to a new high of 130p earlier this week. However, a large seller of over 1 million shares at 130p has seen the price retreat to 125p where they held steady yesterday. But speculation that Pritchard had picked the stake remained unconfirmed yesterday with Air Michael Ashcroft of Provincial, unavailable for comment.

to 238p after interim figures and the decision to acquire Summerbridge Properties.

But a disappointing performance left A. J. Worthington 1p lower at 30p with the cut in the final payment leaving Lonsdale Universal 5p lighter at 37p.

Spurred on by interim figures from Rascal, electricals encountered strong support but profit-taking left most prices below their best at the close. GEC rose 5p to 68p, Plessey 5p to 281p and STC 3p to 43p, with speculative attention responsible for 13p rise a Muirhead at 101p after 110p. Full-year profits from Evode Group were well received and the shares finished 3p dearer at 51p.

Engineering saw further weakness amid fears of a possible liquidation with Turner & Newall 2p off at 70p. Runsome Hoffman & Pollard 4p easier at 71p and John Brown, reporting today, unchanged at 60p. Dupont, after further difficulties, fell 5p to 8p. Only GKN, up 3p at 137p, showed any recovery. Shares of Arthur Holden dipped 4p to 86p as Metal Box, up 8p at 164p, placed its remaining 17.5 per cent.

The sharp fall in the bullion price and heavy selling from the Continent sparked further selling of gold shares in London. Anglo American Gold tumbled £3 to £54. West Driefontein £1 to £27. Western Deep £21 to £19. FS Geduld £11 to £18 and Southvaal £1 to £11. At the cheaper end, Kinross plunged 3p to 52p, UC Investments 3p to 38p, SA Land 3p to 193p, Middle Wits 3p to 63p and Vlakfontein 20p to 200p. In mining finance Cons Gold fell 20p to 448p.

Equity turnover on January 28 was £111.839m (14,868 bargains). The most active stocks, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were Rascal, GEC, Shell, STC, Beecham, Royal Dutch, GKN, ICI, Marks and Spencer, Plessey, Thorn EMI, Britannia Arrow, Allied Breweries, RTZ and GUS.

Traditional options were very quiet with a call in Turner and Newall at 71p and puts in National Westminster at 18p and Arthur Bell at 12p.

## Higher costs may offset 41 pc rise at Macarthys

By Catherine Gunn  
MacCarthy's Pharmaceuticals had a better half year to October 31 thanks to higher demand for prescription medicines and a recovery at its small pharmaceutical manufacturing division.

The shares gained 3p to 136p on news that pretax profits had risen 41 per cent to £2.27m on sales of £95m against £75m. With general practitioners prescribing larger quantities of drugs per visit, and much higher retail drug prices, turnover in pharmaceutical distribution rose 29 per cent to £67m. Since the division's overheads are fixed most of the benefits filtered straight into trading profits, which rose 46 per cent to £2.27m.

Pharmaceutical manufacturing recovered from a £65,000 loss to a £110,000 profit but the surgical equipment side has been hit by hospital spending cuts. The veterinary side's profits slipped by a fifth to £196,000. A recent reshuffle of

that operation is expected to produce better results by the year-end. The slippage on the surgical instruments side was partly offset by the need for consumable products like sutures and needles, but the division's profits ended the half year 37 per cent down at £209,900.

The interim dividend has been maintained at 2.86p gross and the final will almost certainly be held, Mr R. Ritchie, chairman, said yesterday.

He said that the second half's profits were likely to be a little lower than in the first half because of rising overheads. The level of the final dividend will depend upon the extent of those increases and how far new stock requirements affect the group. Drug prices are now rising faster than the general price index, which is a reversal of the previous trend.

At the half year overdrafts stood at £4.57m and interest costs rose by £150,000.

## Briefly

Matthew Brown: Mr Patrick W. Townsend, chairman, said that although beer sales in the financial year to date were down on those of last year the directors believe the group was at least holding its market share. Sales and profit margins were under pressure but the board was confident of the long term prospects.

Associated Engineering: Speaking at an annual meeting, chairman Mr J. N. Ferguson, said there is little sign of any upturn and profits for first half will be marginal and any improvement will depend upon an increase in activity, both in the United Kingdom and world generally.

Tanjong Tin Dredging: Pretax profit for year to December 31, £236,000 (£232,000) including income and dividends of £199,000 (£206,500). First interim of 1.5p has been declared.

Bahco-Record: Agreement has been reached on a revised cash offer by Bahco Limited for Record Ridgway, being 42p cash for each Record ordinary share. Revised offer values Record at £4.7m and is an increase of 5p per share (12.5 per cent) on the original offer.

Dembyware: Group sales for half-year to September 27, 1980, £4.78m (£4.82m). Pretax loss of £48,000 compared with a profit of £54,000 last year. Interim dividend cut from 3.01p to 1.42p gross.

A. J. Worthington (Holdings): Turnover for half-year to September 30, 1980, £1.25m (£1.05m). Pretax profits dropped to £17,300, against £72,200. Interim payment unchanged.

Portsmouth and Sunderland Newspapers: Turnover for 39 weeks to December 27, 1980, £16.24m (£14.07m). Pretax profits, £2.35m (£3.12m).

Edinburgh American Assets Trust: Gross income for 1980, £1.72m (£1.47m). Pretax profits, £572,000 (£522,000). Total gross dividend raised from 1p to 1.14p.

Textured Jersey: Turnover for half-year to October 31, 1980, £5.78m (£4.62m). Pretax profits, £411,000 (£343,000). Interim payment raised from 2.14p to 2.5p gross. Liquid position remains "excellent".

The Greenbank Trust: An announcement was made on Wednesday, January 28, that an agreed offer is to be made by Rowe Rudd & Co on behalf of Malton Financial Services for the 300,000 shares of Greenbank in issue. In this announcement it was estimated that the value of the offer on December 31, 1980, would have been 132p per share. Following this announcement, the share price of Greenbank has risen to a level at which the directors of Greenbank believe it to be above the estimated value of the shares as they would be valued under the proposed offer.

The directors of Greenbank announce that, in the light of this fact, they are considering selling all or a part of those shares in which they have a non-beneficial interest, but which are not irrevocably committed to the offer. The aggregate of these non-beneficial interests amounts to 142,649 shares, representing 17.8 per cent of the issued share capital. In the current circumstances, shareholders may wish, after consulting their professional advisers, to take a similar course of action.

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## Olivetti proposes fourth rights issue since 1978

From John Earle  
Rome  
Olivetti, the electronics and office equipment company based at Ivrea in Piedmont, yesterday announced a capital raising operation, its fourth since 1978.

The existing capital of 208,740m lire (£88.8m) will be increased to 232,820m lire (£98.2m) through a rights issue of 24m preference savings shares of nominal 1,000 lire value. Since, however, they will be offered at 2,500 lire each the funds raised will amount to 60,200m (£25.6m).

At the same time in another rights issue, 120.4m ten-year convertible bonds of 1,000 lire are offered. They bear a 13 per cent coupon and are convertible after the third year.

Olivetti was quoted at 4,625 lire after the announcement, up 55 lire from Wednesday's close.

Philips Petroleum  
Net profits of Philips Petroleum, the Oklahoma-based oil company, rose to \$1,070m (£446m) in 1980, from \$891 the year before, the company said yesterday. Revenues rose by 41 per cent to \$13,700m.

Mr William C. Douce, president and chief executive, said that higher world prices for petroleum liquids and natural gas, combined with increased

## Associate's token bid for Eva

By Our Financial Staff  
Anglo-Indonesian Corporation the tea and rubber group, is making an offer worth £3.7m for its associate, engineering company Eva Industries, but does not really want to acquire all of the capital.

Eva's chairman, Mr Trevor Astley, expects to make an announcement in response to the offer today. What Anglo-Indonesian wants is a larger share of Eva's profits in return for the time it is prepared to put into furthering Eva's agricultural and oil interests, Mr Michael Nightingale, chairman of Anglo, explained yesterday. Since Anglo already owns 27.3 per cent of Eva it had to go above the 30 per cent level that triggers a takeover bid under Takeover Panel rules in order to achieve its objective. The bid itself is purely token and Anglo intends Eva to retain its separate listing.

Anglo decided to make the token bid after agreeing to buy 87,000 Eva shares from BAT Industries at 40p, the price now offered to all Eva shareholders.

Acting in concert with Anglo are some of Eva's institutional shareholders, Mr Nightingale and another Anglo director, Mr Selwyn Pryor, in respect of their own shareholdings in Eva. The combined purchase brings Anglo's aggregate interest to 37.6 per cent of Eva.

## Payout passed as Lonsdale dives

Lonsdale Universal's profits were almost halved last year because of the impact of increased interest charges and the final dividend has been passed.

Pretax profits of the printing-to-office equipment group dropped by 43 per cent from £1.45m to £829,000 in the 12 months to September 30, 1980. Turnover rose by £3m to £39.9m. The interest charge was £1.3m against £949,000 and the borrowings fell from £4.8m to £4.1m.

The other main problem for the group was the printing industry dispute. This contributed to an 11 per cent fall in trading profits which were £2.14m. The figure would have been worse but for an excellent performance by the business forms unit, said Mr Norman Ramseyer, chairman.

Efforts to reduce borrowings met with mixed success. The sale of the department stores for £1m caused losses on book values and redundancy and other rundown payments contributed to the £2.2m extraordinary costs.

## KLM improves

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines' loss for the third quarter to December 31 fell to F13.4m (£623,000) from F11.9m a year earlier.

The operating result, after interest costs, showed a loss of F12.4m against F116.2m.

Record Xerox results  
Xerox Corporation says it expects continued progress in 1981, after reporting record fourth quarter and full-year net profits yesterday.

Net profits for 1980 rose to \$619.2m (£258m) from \$553.1m in 1979 on revenues of \$3,200m, against \$6,990m.

In the fourth quarter it earned \$142.2m, up from \$127.8m, on revenues of \$2,200m against \$1,860m.



British Aerospace is one of British industry's success stories.

For 1979, sales were over £1,000 million and trading profit before launching costs was over £75 million.

The order book in June 1980 exceeded £3,400 million with export orders accounting for well over half the total.

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## A tradition of innovation

British design and manufacturing skills have long been recognised as among the most advanced in the world of aerospace.

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British Aerospace is also working on projects for today's (and tomorrow's) world: the Tornado ADV fighter aircraft; the Nimrod Airborne Early Warning aircraft; the BAe 146 feeder jetliner, designed for quiet and economical operation; the Sea Skua, a helicopter-launched, sea-skimming anti-ship missile; and communications satellites for Europe.

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## FINANCIAL NEWS

## Evode up 28pc, but outlook is difficult

By Peter Wainwright

Evode Holdings, best known for adhesives, but also in sealants, building chemicals and do-it-yourself products, has still to justify in share price terms the rejection in 1979 of a Donald Macpherson bid of 61p a share.

Yesterday Evode's shares did rise 3p to 51p after raising sales by 11.8 per cent to £32.48m and pretax profits by 28.4 per cent to £2.07m in the year to September 27. The result was an increase in earnings a share of 26.9 per cent to 10.33p a share.

The group will do well to hold the line this year now that reorganization is completed and the recession continues. The full year's advance of 28 per cent contrasts with more than doubled profits at half time.

However, current cost profits were £1.43m against £932,000 giving the new dividend of 2.10p gross a share an inflation adjusted 3.8 times cover. Despite heavy capital spending, up a quarter last year, net bank borrowings were repaid. But the yield at 5p is only 4.8 per cent.

Apart from Macpherson there were nearly half a dozen other suitors for Evode and the former chairman, Mr Peter Wright, resigned because he was convinced of the desirability of a merger.

## Western Scientific makes agreed bid for Negretti

By Margaret Pagano

Western Scientific Instruments, an investment holding company formed last May, yesterday made its first acquisition with an agreed bid for the loss-making instrument group, Negretti & Zambra.

Western, created by the privately run finance house Thompson Clive Investments, values Negretti at £1.45m. The offer is 25p for each ordinary share, against a market price of 30p a share, 60p cash for each 9 per cent preference share and 50p cash for each 3.5 per cent preference share.

The Negretti board, whose chairman is Mr Robert Ford, has recommended full acceptance and irrevocable commitment have been received for

45.77 per cent of the ordinary equity and 55.81 per cent of the convertible shares.

Negretti's largest shareholders, Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation and the National Enterprise Board, have accepted the offer. The institutional investors behind Western, which include Electra Investment Trust, the National Coal Board Pension Funds, Atlas Electric and General Trust and others, have agreed to subscribe £3.75m on the offer becoming unconditional. This will increase Western's shareholders' funds to some £4.25m.

Mr Ford said the bid was in the best interests of the shareholders in the light of Negretti's trading position, revealed yesterday. In the six

months to September the group lost £454,900 against £408,000 last time, on sales down from £5.3m to £5.1m. The interim dividend has been passed. The recession has severely affected performance, particularly from Negretti Automation and Sepkarn, he added.

The initiative for Western originally came from Electra Investments, which approached Thompson Clive with the idea of setting up a new science and technology group to develop cross-marketing between Europe and the United States. If the offer goes through Western is looking to dispose of Negretti's interests outside instrumentation, to improve its gearing and develop industrial electronics and defence products.

## Boost from interest, but Allied Textile dips

By Rosemary Umworth

Allied Textile Companies, the specialist worsted and uniform manufacturers, saw its profits eroded by 5 per cent last year as conditions in the home textile market remained difficult, although the group held steady during the second half.

Pretax profits went from £3.25m to £3.1m while turnover dipped by £1m to £29.6m in the year to September 30. But Allied benefited from high interest rates, earning £450,000 on £5.3m cash balances acquired as it has rationalized the group over the past six years.

Despite the strength of sterling exports improved by £1m to about £8m although Japan and West Germany, Allied's biggest European customers, are becoming difficult because of their currencies.

Mill closures and reorganization costs amounted to £480,000, compared with £373,000 the year before.

The final dividend has been maintained at 6.3p gross making 10.3p for the year and chief executive, Mr Russell Smith, pointed out that the group's earned interest now nearly paid the cost.

The share price raced up by 9p to 125p, after the announcement, where the yield is 8.2

## Recession still hurting Bass

At yesterday's annual meeting of Bass, the brewing giant which recently took over Coral Leisure, told shareholders that because of the recession, sales of beer, wines and spirits, soft drinks and hotel occupancy have all suffered in recent months. This is likely to continue and will inevitably affect the outturn for the first six months of the current year. However, there were some good signs—the slowing down in the rate of inflation should benefit Bass's sales eventually.

the 10 months to October 31, 1980. Meanwhile, Lynton's pretax surplus for the half-year to September 25 last rose from £531,000 to £395,000. The interim dividend is being raised from 1.71p to 2.14p gross and the board expects last year's total payment of 4.42p gross will be "at least" maintained.

## Setback for R K Taylor

Pretax profits of Robert Kitchen Taylor, the textiles and property concern, tumbled from £1.9m to £638,000 in the year to September 30, 1980. Turnover slipped from £17.02m to £15.4m. Although earnings per share have dropped from 34.7p to 12.6p, the total gross dividend is being maintained at 14.28p. The board explains that the difficult conditions in the textile industry have persisted and the second half-year did not live up to expectations. Two offshoots made sizeable losses. Remedial action has been taken.

## Outlook good for Asprey

Pretax profits of Asprey & Co., the goldsmiths, silversmiths and jewellers, were virtually unchanged at £784,000 in the half-year to Sept. 30, 1980, compared with £787,000 last time. However, earnings per ordinary share rose by 21 per cent to 131.75p. Turnover was 14 per cent higher at £1.1m. Mr John Asprey, the chairman, reports that had it not been for the costs of integrating and rationalising the Alger-

non Asprey Group, earnings could have shown a significant improvement. The outlook for the second half is encouraging.

## Another scrip from Hill &amp; Smith

Best-ever results and a scrip issue for the second year running are reported by Hill & Smith, a West Midlands-based group taking in steel stockholding, general engineering and drop forgings. In the year to Sept. 30, 1980, pretax profits rose from £880,000 to a record £1.13m—only the second time they have topped the £1m mark—on turnover up from £16.07m to £18.41m. The total gross dividend is being raised from 4.54p (adjusted for last year's scrip issue) to 5p a share. For the second year running, a one-for-ten scrip issue is being proposed. However, the board warns that profits for the first half of the current year will be reduced, with any significant improvement in the second half depending on an expected recovery in demand.

## Holden shares placed with institutions

Arthur Holden and Sons' brokers, Sabin Bacon White and Company, have placed 1.25m shares, 17.65 per cent of the ordinary capital with various institutions. The shares were formerly held by Metal Box. This does not affect the close trading relationship between the two companies, a fact which is underlined by the retention of 653,000 shares, 9.3 per cent in Holden by Metal Box.

## Business appointments

## London Transport names three new executives

Mr Clive W. Hardie has been named by London Transport as director of mechanical engineering (railways), in succession to Mr Stanley F. Smith, who is to retire. Mr John L. Cope becomes a member of the rail board as personnel director (railways) in succession to Mr W. F. Perce. Mr James A. Neale becomes group personnel director.

Dr John Shields has been named managing director of Standard Telecommunications Laboratories.

Captain John Wharrie has been made commodore of the B2 Shipping fleet.

Mr Harry Cressman has become managing director of Beca Motor Group.

Mr Ray Horrocks, managing director, cars, joins the board of B.L. Limited.

On the taking over by Mr R. A. Iles as chairman of Alexander Haysen Insurance Brokers, the board has made Mr R. W. Larkin chief executive of the non-marine reinsurance division.

Mr Kevin Teal is the new export and marketing director of M. L. Shelley & Partners.

Mr D. Ross-Smith and Mr D. R. G. Wilkins have joined the board of McCordale Machine Services.

Mr Maurice Townsend has been elected as chairman of The Cable Television Association.

Mr Matthew Oakeshott has been made investment manager of the Courtlands Limited Pensions Common Investment Fund.

Mr C. E. Black becomes investment managing director of Globe Investment Trust.

Dr Jeffrey V. Buncher and Mr Alan C. Warrin have been made directors of Yorkshire Chemicals.

Mr Peter J. Galvin is now finance director of Price & Pierce (Building Company). His post as company secretary and group chief accountant has been taken by Mr Andrew Elms Davies.

Mr Douglas Kramer becomes a non-executive director of Slough Estates.

Mr Richard Lucas and Mr John Usell have joined the board of Hogg Robinson International and Insurance. Mr Lucas has also been made managing director of Foss Robinson & Gardner Mountain (Reinsurance & Non-Marine) and Mr Usell managing director of Hogg Robinson & Gardner Mountain (Marine). Mr M. B. Jensen becomes director responsible for production for Hogg Robinson & Gardner Mountain (Marine).

Mr M. H. Fisher has been made a director of Commercial Union Assurance Company.

Mr Stuart Evans, Mr Graham Rowbotham, Mr Richard Slater, Mr Andrew Campbell, Mr Alan Pearson, Mr Lawrence Haines and Mr Anthony Orr have become partners in Messrs Simmons & Simmons.

Mr Michael R. F. Cartwright and Mr Peter G. Pike have been made directors of Associated Container Transportation (Australia).

Mr Robert Hunt becomes director, semiconductor memories for IIT Semiconductors, United Kingdom. He continues as plant manager, IIT Semiconductors, Farnborough.

Mr D. Parkin is now on the board of Robinson Willey Limited.

Mr John Duncan, has been elected to the PA International board. Mr Douglas Muirhead, chairman of the United Kingdom board of PA Management Consultants has retired and has been succeeded by Mr Kenneth Hampton. Mr John Foden, chief executive of PA's Personnel Services, has been elected to the United Kingdom board.

Mr J. A. Alderott has joined the board of Colvile Group.

Mr Dennis Close has been appointed by Serck Controls as operations director and Mr Michael Jenkins has become marketing director.

Mr Francis J. Lambert has been appointed by Chemical Bank as vice-president responsible for its European shipping group based in London.

Mr Peter L. Walker has become executive chairman of Pielle & Company Ltd. He will take personal responsibility for the development of the company's management and corporate affairs division—Pielle Consultants.

Mr Laurie Heylings has joined the board of New Smiths Stainless Ltd.

Mr David Wadsworth has joined The Solicitors' Law Stationery Society as head of finance.

Mr Adrian Elsworth, managing director of the domestic appliance division, Caron Company, has been made a director of Caron Company. Mr Ray A. Hannah is now marketing director of the domestic appliance division.

Mr E. D. D. Ryder has resigned as chairman and a managing director of Cater Ryder and Company but remains on the board. Mr James Barclay, a managing director, becomes chairman.

Mr D. S. Macey has retired from the chairmanship of Speedwell Gear Case Company. Mr John Whitehead, finance director, takes over the responsibilities of Chairman, whilst Mr Hugh Kirton and Mr Gerry Cecillon, the sales and commercial directors, become joint managing directors.

Mr John Jarvis has joined the board of Pisons Scientific Equipment Division as director of personnel and administration.

Mr D. A. Brooks and Mr H. N. Khan are joining the parent board of D. B. A. Harrison has been named principal manager for Portugal, of the group of London & South America. Mr J. W. S. Cook has been made principal manager for The Netherlands by Lloyds Bank International.

Mr Nicholas Selbie, an executive director of Barclays Merchant Bank has been seconded as director of that bank to work in the group office of Barclays Bank International, New York.

Mr A. M. Clapperton and Mr R. L. John have been assistant directors of County Bank.

## Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank	14%
Barclays	14%
BCCI	14%
Consolidated Crds	14%
C. Hoare & Co.	14%
Lloyds Bank	14%
Midland Bank	14%
Nat Westminster	14%
Rossminster	14%
TSB	14%
Williams and Glyn's	14%

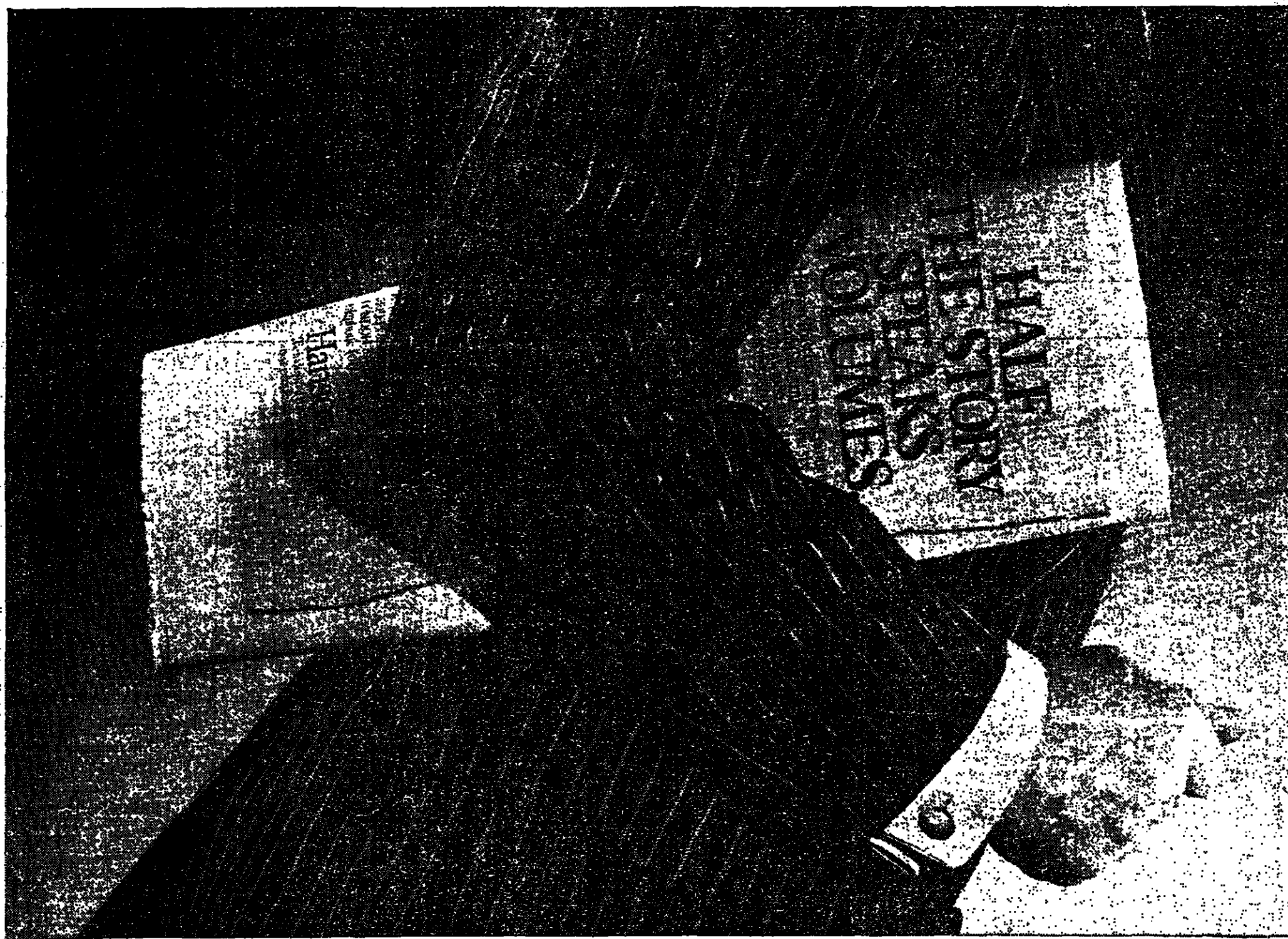
\* 7 day deposit on sums of £10,000 and under 11 1/2% up to £50,000 12 1/2% over

M. J. H. Nightingale &amp; Co. Limited

27/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212

The Over-the-Counter Market

1980/81	High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Divid	Yld %	P/E
75	39	39	Airsprung Group	64	-1	6.7	10.5	5.8
44	21	21	Armitage & Rhodes	42	-2	1.4	3.3	17.3
122	92	92	Bardon Eill	109	-	9.7	5.1	7.1
87	39	39	County Cars Pref	38	-	-	-	-
98	83	83	Deborah Services	96	-	5.5	5.7	4.8
126	88	88	Frank Horsell	113	-	6.4	5.7	3.5
110	56	56	Frederick Parker	56	-	11.0	19.6	2.6
110	74	74	George Blair	78	-	3.1	4.0	4.0
110	59	59	Jackson Group	108	-	6.9	6.4	4.1
124	103	103	James Burrough	120	-	7.9	6.6	9.8
334	244	244	Robert Jenkins	330	-1	31.3	9.5	-
53	50	50	Serretions 'A'	53	-	5.3	10.0	3.8
224	216	216	Torday Limited	216	-	15.1	7.0	3.7
23	10	10	Twinkllock Ord	124	-	-	-	-
90	69	69	Twinkllock 15% ULS	78	-	15.0	19.7	-
56	35	35	Unilock Holdings	37	-	3.0	8.1	5.7
102	81	81	Walker Alexander	101	-	5.7	5.6	5.6
258	181	181	W. S. Yeates	258	+2	12.1	4.7	12



# HALF THE STORY MADE GOOD READING. THE RESULTS

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Which is why we at Hanson Trust were pleased to report a record profit of £39.1 million (£31.2 million) at September 30, 1980, following a first half at March 31, 1980, of £16.1 million (£12.5 million).

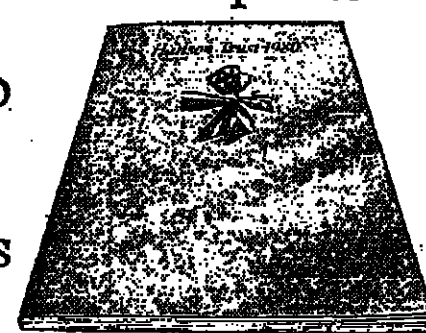
This represents an increase of 25 per cent over 1979, our seventeenth successive year of increased profit, earnings per share and dividend growth.

Earnings per share rose to 23.2p (18.5p) and dividends were well up at 8.5p (6.57p adjusted).

Payments to shareholders were up 38 per cent on 1979 at £9.1 million (£6.6 million).

If you would like to know more about us and our activities in the UK and North America please send for our annual report to Hanson Trust, FREEPOST, London SW3 1BR (no stamp required) or telephone (01) 589 7070.

Although good results may not be novel in the field of industry, how many good books have you read lately?



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The industrial management company where people are as valued as assets.



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Finance ministers from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) will meet in Vienna today to discuss increasing their aid for agricultural and world commodity trade.

The ministers, who postponed a meeting in Quito last October because of the Iran-Iraq war, will consider allocating \$2 billion (more or less) to the International Fund for Agricultural Development according to Opec aid director, Mr Ibrahim Shihata.

Mr Shihata, director general of the Opec fund for international development, says they would also discuss individual members' contributions to the \$100m sum Opec has earmarked for the common fund to stabilize world commodity prices.

The Opec fund received \$455m—almost half the initial budget—to IFAD when it began three years ago. Negotiations for the common fund, long sought by Third World states through the United Nations Development Programme (Unctad), ended successfully last year.

Mr Shihata said the ministers would not discuss Opec's long-term strategy, a project temporarily revived because of the Gulf conflict. But he said they might consider the aid proposals included in the strategy committee's draft report.

Money looked to be slightly in surplus in a very quiet discount market yesterday, but the Bank of England found that this was not really showing at surface level and that a little assistance was needed.

So the Bank bought a small quantity of Treasury Bills direct from the houses.

Rates during the morning were indicated within a range of 13 per cent to 13½ per cent.

Sterling: Spot and		
	Markets rates, (day's range)	Markets rates, (close)
New York	\$2.3958-4080	\$2.3970
Montreal	\$2.8728-8370	\$2.8730
Amsterdam	5.43-57	5.44-58
Brussels	50.29-58	50.40-50
Copenhagen	16.35-50k	15.43-47
Dublin	1.3359-3466	1.3436-50
Frankfurt	5.43-57	5.44-58
Lisbon	1.3282-133.00e	1.323-30
Madrid	196.75-197.50	196.80-80
Milan	2275-50k	2278-78
Osaka	12.12-13.00k	12.55-56
Paris	11.83-60	11.87-87
Stockholm	10.90-44k	10.91k-7
Tokyo	48-49	48.57
Vancouver	35.46-70sch	35.23-27
Zurich	4.51k-67k	4.56-67

	Bank of England Index	Morgan Guaranty Index	Changes %
Sterling	81.4	-	-24.4
US dollar	85.1	-	+3.1
Canadian dollar	79.7	-	-18.8
Schilling	142.1	-	+31.2
Belgian franc	110.0	-	+10.0
Danish kroner	92.1	-	-7.9
Deutsche mark	142.3	-	+37.6
Swiss franc	181.5	-	+73.5
Guilder	106.9	-	+16.2
French franc	92.1	-	-4.1
Lira	49.0	-	-53.5
Yen	146.1	-	+42.9

Based on trade weighted changes from Washington agreement December 1971.  
(Bank of England index 100).

	ECU central rates	currency against ECU	% from 1990 r
Belgian franc	39.7897	41.7084	+
Danish kron	16.6463	8.1037	+
German D-mark	2.48363	8.2254	+
French franc	5.49470	5.99438	+
Dutch guilder	2.74362	2.82175	+
Irish punt	0.626631	0.667658	+
Italian lira	1.357.78	1.353.72	+

† changes are for the ECU therefore currency.  
 \* adjusted for sterling's weight in the divergence limits.  
 Adjustment calculated by The Times.

(%) calls. 18<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-19<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>: seven days.  
17<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-17<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>: one month. 17<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-17<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>:  
three months. 17<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-17<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>: six  
months. 16<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-16<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>.

The dollar continued very firm on active but unsettled foreign exchange markets yesterday. The US currency made further appreciable gains against most major currencies including sterling which fell 1.15 cents at 2.3975 compared with 2.4090 overnight. Even so, the pound was still holding up well against other continental currencies but reluctantly had to give up 0.2 points at the final effective exchange index of 81.4 (overnight 81.6).

# Get Forward

Ireland	1.7840-1.7860	Bank
Canada	1.1982-1.1185	
Netherlands	2.2700-2.2720	(Last of)
gium	33.53-33.56	
Denmark	6.44-6.48	Clearing
Germany	2.0950-2.0980	
Portugal	55.10-55.25	Discor
Fin	82.10-82.20	Overal
France	981.50-982.50	
Italy	5.4020-5.4200	Week
Spain	4.8300-4.8250	
Sweden	4.50-4.58	
Switzerland	204.50-204.70	Buying
UK	14.78-14.81	3 mont
Iceland	1.9980-1.9010	3 mont
Ireland quoted in US currency.		Prim
Canada \$1 : US	50.8344-0.8367	2 mont

Range	% change annualized*	Divergence limit plus/minus	1 month 2 months 3 months 4 months 5 months 6 months
32	+0.52	1.53	1 month
75	+0.55	1.54	2 months
100	+0.56	1.25	3 months
133	-1.77	1.357	4 months
155	-1.45	1.512	5 months
171	-0.63	1.655	6 months
197	-2.09	4.06	1 month
			3 months

positive change denotes weak  
negative change denotes strong

ECU, and for the lira's wider

2 days  
7 days  
1 month

Gold fixed: am. 5505 (an ounce); 1 mont  
n. \$493.75 close. \$490.50. 3 mont  
ugerrand (per coin): \$505-508 First  
\$10.75-212.00). 3 mont  
vereigns (new): \$125-127 (52-53). Financ

The decline in the German mark went a stage further with the dollar appreciating at 2.0955 from 2.0802 overnight.

The pound too, was still worth more than Dm5 closing at an unchanged 5.0250 position.

The fresh advance in the US dollar still stemmed from the US government's tax- and spending cut plans, and also by the high US interest rate structure which still shows no sign of any marked decline.

Other Markets	
Australia	2.0380-2.0530
Bahrain	0.9050-0.9085
Finland	9.3225-9.5825
Greece	115.50-117.50
Hongkong	12.5875-12.6275
Iran	not available
Kuwait	0.6540-0.6570
Malaysia	5.3150-5.3450
Mexico	55.50-57.00
New Zealand	2.1000-2.1500
Saudi Arabia	8.0025-8.0325
Singapore	4.9710-5.0010
South Africa	1.8090-1.8240

England MLE 14%  
 changed 24/11/80)  
 Banks Base Rate 14%  
 Mkt Loans %  
 at: High 14% Low 10  
 ed: 14% - 14%  
 Treasury Bills (Dis%)  
 Selling  
 12% 2 months 12%  
 12% 3 months 12%  
 Bank Bills (Dis%) Trades (Dis%)  
 13% - 13% 3 months 13%

12% <sup>1</sup> -12% <sup>1</sup>	6 months	12%
12% <sup>1</sup> -12% <sup>1</sup>		
<b>Local Authority Bonds</b>		
12% <sup>1</sup> -12% <sup>1</sup>	7 months	14-15%
12% <sup>1</sup> -12% <sup>1</sup>	8 months	14-15%
14% <sup>1</sup> -14%	9 months	13%-13%
14% <sup>1</sup> -14%	10 months	12%-13%
14% <sup>1</sup> -15%	11 months	13%-13%
14-15%	12 months	13%-13%
<b>Secondary Mkt. ECD Rates (%)</b>		
14%-14%	6 months	13%-12% <sup>1</sup>
13%-15%	12 months	12%-13%
<b>Local Authority Market (%)</b>		
14%	3 months	13% <sup>1</sup>
14%	6 months	13%
14%	1 year	13%

12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-14<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 9 months 13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>  
13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> 12 months 13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>  
Less Finance Houses (Mkt. Rate%)  
14<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-14<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> 6 months 13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>  
House Base Rate 15<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>%

New York, Jan 29.—A surge by the steel group injected new life into heavy industry stocks and they led the stock market higher in moderate trading.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 6.31 points to close at 948.89. Advances edged declines eight to seven. Turnover rose to 33,000,000 shares from 36,690,000 yesterday but continued below recent levels.

Experts said investors may remain cautious until they see how the Reagan economic package is received by Congress.

Volume leader LTV Corporation rose one to 20 $\frac{1}{2}$  and United States in second place, gained  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Bethlehem Steel climbed  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 25 $\frac{1}{2}$ , Republic Steel  $\frac{1}{4}$  to 25 $\frac{1}{4}$ , National Steel  $\frac{1}{4}$  to 26 and Inland Steel one to 30 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Among other industrial issues, Active rose  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 43 $\frac{1}{2}$ , Union Carbide  $\frac{1}{4}$  to 56 $\frac{1}{2}$ , General Motors  $\frac{1}{4}$  to 45 and International Harvester  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 44 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Gulf Oil, which reported lower fourth-quarter net loss  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 40 $\frac{1}{2}$ , rose  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 40 $\frac{1}{2}$  and climbed one to 23 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Gulf Oil rose  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 40 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Blue Bird Inc. gained 3¢ to 31½. Alhaghey Ludlum proposed to buy Blue Bird for \$40 a share in stock and debt. Blue Bird said the offer was inadequate.

Teledyne voted a three-for-two split and added ½ to 194. Newmont Mining, which hit 53½ at one point, dropped back to 50½ to close.

Down ½.

## US commodities

New York Jan. 26, Gold (Comex) futures for February closed at \$516.00 a ounce, up \$9.50 on yesterday's close.

March, \$526.00; April, \$530.00; May, \$536.00; June, \$539.00; July, \$543.00; Aug., \$547.00; Sept., \$550.00; Oct., \$553.00; Nov., \$556.00; Dec., \$565.00; Feb., \$567.00.

[illegible]

**COTTON:** March, 80.00-84.50c:  
May, 80.58-90.80c; July, 91.60-  
1.50c; Oct. 87.60-87.75c; Dec. 84.60-  
4.75c; March, 85.60-88.80c; May,  
85.75c; July, 86.50-87.00c.

**SUGAR** futures closed 1.68 to 1.00  
cent lower in a sympathetic setback  
with precious metals. Sugar if closing  
prices were: March, 26.20c-26.40c;

[illegible]

1990/91		1990/91		1990/91	
High	Low	High	Low	High	Low

[illegible]



ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan 26. Dealings End, Feb 6. § Contango Day, Feb 9. Settlement Day, Feb 10.  
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

[illegible]



# Motoring

## BL making no extravagant sales promises

This is the time when car manufacturers disclose their sales forecasts for the coming year. As usual, some of the targets have been wildly optimistic and should bring blushes to more than a few cheeks when they are compared with the actual figures after December 31.

It is a mark of the sober climate in which BL operates that the company is making no extravagant promises for 1981 and Mr Peter Johnson, the new United Kingdom sales director, will be moderately satisfied if the final market share comes out at between 20 and 21 per cent.

That, at least, would represent a revival from the record low of 18.22 per cent last year, and 19.63 per cent in 1979, but with the total market expected to be down from 1,500,000 to about 1,400,000, BL could take a bigger share without selling any more cars.

Mr Johnson admits that it will be difficult to hold even 20 per cent amid what promises to be fierce competition. Ford has taken the initiative by announcing price cuts and improved specifications at no extra cost and Fiat has reduced all prices by 10 per cent and there is still heavy discounting by dealers.

Of particular concern to BL

(and Ford) is the sharp decline in the fleet market, which accounts for well over half of all new cars sold in Britain. In the present economic climate, companies are tending to hang on to cars, rather than replacing them, and sales of popular fleet models, like the Cortina and Vauxhall Cavalier, are badly down compared with this time last year.

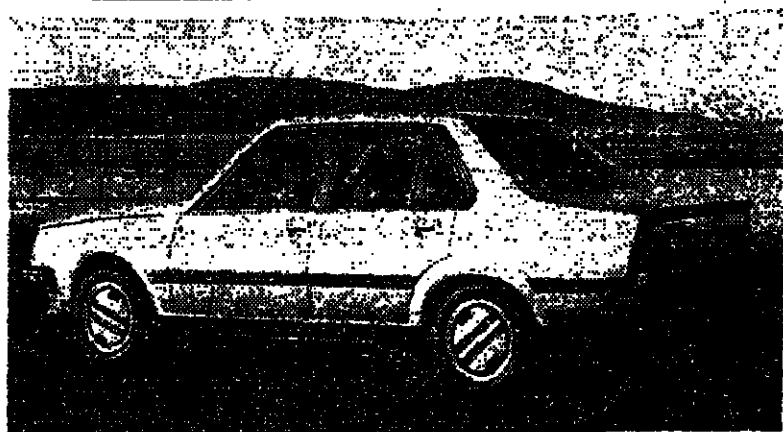
For many years Ford has dominated the fleet market with the Cortina and Escort. One of BL's weaknesses is that it has not been able to offer a comparable winner, despite some success with the Marina/Ital. But it is making a special push in the fleet sector in 1981, with the hopes of the Metro at one end and the Princess at the other.

The Metro has won big contracts from the British School of Motoring and the Granada television rental firm and other companies, conscious of the need to keep running costs to the minimum, may decide that the Metro's outstanding fuel consumption and 12,000 mile servicing intervals are just the ticket.

The Princess is still suffering from the poor image generated by well publicized troubles with, among other things, drive shafts. BL claim there has been a sharp improvement in quality and reliability in the past 18 months and that is coming through in second-hand values. But it is much easier to lose a reputation than to regain one.

For 1981 the Princess has undergone a series of minor revisions, mainly to improve specification and make the car quieter, and by containing price rises BL is hoping to sell the car directly against the middle and upper ranges of the Cortina.

Princess prices start at £4,788 for



The Renault 18—turbo for the family motorist.

the 1.7 litre and rise to £6,482 for the 2.2.

This week I renewed acquaintance with the Princess on what BL considers to be a typical executive's journey, from London to Bristol and back. The trip underlined the car's main virtues, the big amount of passenger space, the infinitely adjustable front seats, height as well as rake and reach, and the comfortable ride (though the springing is better than the damping and undulating surfaces can set up wallow).

From all those points of view it is an excellent long-distance cruiser and two out of three available engines, the 1.7 and the 2.2 litre s.e., are quiet and smooth enough to ensure that the car is easy on the ear as well as the body. The two-litre unit, however, develops an unfortunate boom at the crucial 70 mph and sounds so busy at that speed that it cries out for an extra gear.

A five-speed gearbox is one option BL has been looking at for the Princess and another is a tailgate, for which the car's wedge shape is perfectly suited.

The present boot opening is too small and a fifth door would be a considerable asset. I understand a hatchback version is about a year away.

Other freshening-up exercises can be expected from BL on the Allegro (soon), the 12 cylinder Jaguar (in the summer) and the Rover (early in 1982). By this summer, too, the Metro should have joined the select band of small cars. Mini, Renault 5, Honda Civic, that offer automatic transmission.

The success of the Metro, likely to take 8 per cent of the market this month, shows how much BL can be revitalized by new models. The next one will be the Honda-based Triumph Acclaim in October and after that the LC10 medium car. But the timeline between the Acclaim and the LC10 could be 18 months and with the Maxi, Ital and Allegro getting no younger, it will be an awkward period for BL to bridge.

### Renault 18 Turbo

Readers who feel there has been rather a lot about turbo-

charged cars in this column recently may be assured that after today the subject will lie fallow for a while. But Renault's approach to turbocharging is particularly interesting and in marked contrast to that of Saab and Audi, whose turbo models have been the subject of my last two road tests.

Instead of going to the top of its range to introduce the "blown" engine, Renault has chosen medium and small cars for the purpose. The R5 Turbo, reviewed by my colleague John Blunsden last year, is not yet on sale in Britain; but the 18 is now available here and represents the first application of turbo to the medium family saloon.

Turbo tends to suggest tyre-scorching aggression but the blown 18 is not. Renault insists, a sports car. It is still a family saloon but one with better performance and smoother running. Despite a high price, £6,589, Renault expects the turbo to account for one in 10 of the 18's projected 30,000 sales in Britain this year.

The engine chosen for the turbo treatment is the 1565cc unit which has been used in R12 and R17 Gordini versions. Turbo has increased the power output to 115 bhp, compared with the 79 bhp of the 1647cc engine in other 18 models, and maximum torque at 133lb ft is considerably higher as well.

The effect is to make the car distinctly quicker and more flexible. On Renault's own figures, it reaches 60 mph from rest in 10 seconds, instead of 12.8 on the conventional 18, and has a top speed of 115 mph, instead of 100 mph. Probably of more value to the average driver is better top-gear acceleration, making

overtaking both easier and safer. The turbo comes in smoothly, with a well-muffled whine, and the extra surge of power is impressive. Renault claims that the application of turbo has made the engine generally smoother and quieter and will maintain a cruising speed of up to 100 mph with little effort.

Them ain't reservations about turbo is that it is an expensive means of providing power which in normal driving is very little used. As on the Saab and the Audi 200, the blown engine does not come into its own much below 3,000 rpm: so you have to drive the R18 fairly hard to reap the benefit. It follows, however, that fuel consumption is little worse than on the ordinary 18, with an overall 30 mpg well within reach.

The R18 Turbo is fitted with a five-speed gearbox, which, on the car I tried, had a somewhat rubbery change, larger, and rather fierce, shakes; and stiffer suspension. Externally, the car distinguished by front and rear spoiler, big black bumpers, alloy wheels and, in case the message has not got across, the word "turbo" on each front door.

Inside, there are high-backed seats, with side supports, finished in velour cloth, and a new dashboard, which includes a turbo pressure gauge. To help justify the high price, the car has been generously equipped and among the standard items are power steering, handlamp wash/wipe, central door locking, electric front windows and a leather covered steering wheel adjustable for height.

All the same, the 18 Turbo costs almost £1,300, or 25 per cent more than the most expen-

sive conventional 18 with the same gearbox, and potential customers may ask themselves whether this substantial premium is worth paying for a useful, though limited, increase in performance and equipment they could do without.

I must admit to being sceptical about the exercise and feel that Renault could have supplied the extra performance more easily and cheaply by fitting a two-litre engine as it did on the 18's sister car, the Fuego. Fuel consumption, too, would be little different, if the Fuego's figures are any guide.

Renault admits that the 18 Turbo is an experiment, though in France the car has been selling better than expected. There is no reason why turbo should not be applied to the Fuego, arguably the more appropriate vehicle for it, and one that can take a high price.

### Panther reborn

The Panther company, which had to call in the receiver in December, 1979, is back in business under its unlikely new owner, Jindo Industries of South Korea, whose interests include containers and fur. It is planned to build chassis in Korea and ship them to the Panther works at Byfleet in Surrey where the cars are assembled.

Production has been resumed on a modest scale and three models are again being offered: the Lima, an open sports car powered by a 2.3 litre Vauxhall engine, at £10,987; the J72, which has the six-cylinder Jaguar engine and costs £26,384; and the De Ville, a 12-cylinder luxury saloon in the 1930s style which is one of the most expensive cars sold in Britain at £67,275.

Peter Waymark

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on page 26

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# Travel in America



Some faces of America... a high school football match in Detroit; at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington Uncle Sam holds all that was left of project Vanguard, the first American space launch, which crashed seconds after lift-off in 1957; the Statue of Liberty offering a welcome to New York. Photographs: Richard and Sally Greenhill, Brian Harris.

## A four-week trip converts a reluctant wife

...and off, I suppose I must have spent the better part of a year attempting to persuade my wife to share a holiday with me in the United States. Her vision of that great country, like that of so many others, had been coloured by the television screen. She was convinced that murder and mayhem stalked the city streets, despite the valiant efforts of men like Starkey and Hutch; that the food offered was horrible; that all that was old and architecturally beautiful had been swept aside by the huge and hideous; that the countryside was polluted by horrendous highways and hamburger stands and all the other horrors trailed in the wake of ever-advancing technology.

Towards the end of that year of persuasion she flew out to meet me in Los Angeles. We spent the next four weeks travelling more than 4,000 miles by car and many additional miles by air. As the month drew to a close, and at a time when we would normally be telling each other how nice it would be to get home and see the children, she said she would like to stay on—possibly, even to emigrate. This volte face was brought about by a number of factors, some of which are listed below.

**Food.** The best of the New World's food is very fine indeed, be it New England clam chowder, New Orleans gumbo, or just plain old New York hamburger. In the big cities it is possible to obtain very imaginative dishes in any cuisine. Outside the main centres meals tend to be plain, wholesome and somewhat unimaginative, with the staple diet consisting of beef, chicken and fish. American cuisine, sheep and pigs by the thousand, and lamb, mutton and pork are hard to find, at least in the South and Southwest.

However, breakfasts are universally superb, sandwiches come giant-sized, coffee is cheap and apparently limitless, the ubiquitous salads are a delight, nearly all main courses are freshly prepared, and fruit is always available. At dinner, expect to be invited to

start with salad, to which you help yourself from the restaurant salad bar, or soup. The main course is then served, usually with chips ("French fries") or baked potato, seldom with English-style green vegetables.

Try having a good breakfast then fasting until dinner time. Portions at all meals are enormous. Ask for, say, one club sandwich and two plates, so that you can share it with your travelling companion. Americans do not seem to mind cost-cutting exercises of this kind.

Drink. For goodness' sake do not ask for tea unless you want the lemon variety. A pot of tea for two consists of a stainless steel container full of hot (not boiling) water and a couple of tea bags lying alongside (not in) it. Stick to coffee, which is delicious. Cold drinks, soft or alcoholic, are frequently served in glasses which are one-third filled with ice. Beer always comes cold and is generally preferred to wine, although many of the Californian wines are delicious, cheap and underrated. Do try the cocktails, which come in hundreds of varieties and are often potent.

Some areas have barely moved out of the prohibition era where alcohol is concerned. The Mormon state of Utah, for example, is dry, as are many counties in unlikely, home-made places like Texas and Kansas. This does not mean that you cannot get a drink. Buy your liquor in a store, take it into a restaurant, and ask for a "set-up". You are then charged for the glass in which to put it, the ice with which to cool it, and the tonic water, soda, or whatever with which to dilute it.

**Travel.** Most Americans move around their country by aeroplane or car. The tourist is not obliged to follow their lead. Passenger trains still link most of the important cities, but they travel at a leisurely pace. If you have plenty of time and want to get a good view of the countryside at ground level then try it.

Amtrak, operated by the National Railroad Passenger Corporation and represented in Britain by Thomas Cook, offers an impressive network of services in the north-eastern states, but these thin out considerably west of the Mississippi. It sells a USA Rail pass for unlimited travel over its tracks; if bought in Britain before leaving, charges are \$200 for seven days and \$500 for 30, with concessions for children and spouses.

Coach services of organizations like Greyhound or Trailways are a cheap and efficient way of getting from A to B, or even Z. Greyhound, which has offices in Cockspur Street, London, is advertising its Ameripass again this year. The standard season fare, available all the year, ranges from \$149 for seven days to \$325 for 30 days and buys unlimited travel on all the company's extensive United States and Canadian networks.

Air travel is cheap by European standards, particularly for those who buy a rover-type ticket on this side of the Atlantic before leaving. Many of these enable the visitor to fly anywhere as many times as he wishes over a fixed period of weeks. Getting aboard an aircraft in the United States is like boarding a bus in Britain: formalities are kept to a minimum—and the services are usually on time.

Driving. An ability to drive is not essential, but it is highly desirable. Short-distance public transport of the European variety is conspicuous by its absence. Car rental firms such as Hertz offer first-class vehicles, usually less than a year old, at fairly low prices. Gas, as petrol is known, costs about 50p for an American gallon, which is four-fifths of an Imperial gallon.

The cheapest way of hiring a car is probably through a travel agent, in package form, before leaving Britain. Round-tripping is generally more economic than picking a car up in one city and leaving it in another. Cars can be hired in one state and left in another, but the cost of travelling mounts rapidly. As a guide, Hertz is offering off-peak Ford

Escort-type cars this year for seven days at \$130, with no charge for the number of miles travelled if the car is returned to the location at which it was picked up.

Many Americans favour RVs, or recreational vehicles, which enable them to cook and sleep in the vehicle. There is an abundance of camping sites throughout America, equipped with power points, water and toilet facilities, and every other conceivable mod con. If you do hire, make sure you understand the controls before you set off. Find out where the petrol filler cap is before you drive away, often it is concealed behind the licence plate.

**Clothing.** Travel light, particularly if visiting the South or South-west. Summer temperatures are high, and since Americans seldom dress formally there is no point in often it is concealed behind the licence plate.

Now there is not only a vast range of carriers and "gateways", but a wide choice of fares—from £77 standby to £837 by the supersonic Concorde—both from London to New York.

At a rough count, there are 14 airlines flying out of Britain to more than 30 destinations in the United States this summer. British Airways has by far the largest number of gateways and will be offering about two million seats on board its fleet of Boeing 747 jumbos.

The British Airways routes from Heathrow—although a few flights go by way of Manchester and Prestwick, Scotland—are to New York, Anchorage, Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Miami, Philadelphia, Seattle and Washington, with New Orleans to be added in May.

Standby single fares and advance purchase excursions (Apex) fares, the most often taken up by leisure travellers, cost respectively New York £77 and £185, Anchorage £90 and £245, Boston £82 and £185, Chicago £110 and £258, Detroit £110 and £259, Los Angeles £108 and £269, San Francisco £113 and £269, Miami £81 and £203, Philadelphia £90 and £206, Seattle £105 and £245, and Washington £90 and £206.

But because of a govern-

## More airlines, more destinations and a wide range of fares

ment ruling that all new four bucket shops in London, has suggested that the rules covering the sale of cheap tickets should be changed, as he alleges, 45 airlines openly flout them. There is little doubt that some of the big airlines, worried about the under-cutting of their prices, are prepared to do cut-price deals themselves. Passengers would be wise to ensure they receive a valid ticket before paying money in this market sector.

The airlines are: Delta, with a service to Atlanta; Pan Am, to Houston; Northwest Orient, to Minneapolis/St Paul and Boston; Western, to Anchorage and Honolulu; and from April to Denver and Las Vegas; Braniff, to Dallas/Fort Worth; Air Florida, to Miami; and World, to Washington/Baltimore.

Laker operates Skytrain services to New York, Los Angeles and Miami and is to start flights to Tampa.

Out of Heathrow, Pan Am flies to New York, Washington, Miami, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle and Detroit; and TWA to New York, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

The service of a reliable travel agent is recommended for intending holidaymakers seeking to find a way through this mass of options and also through the fares maze which, on the North Atlantic, is equally daunting. There are big bargains to be had over the Atlantic. Such is the competition between the airlines that fares have been kept artificially low to the extent that between them they made a loss on the routes last year.

Early booking is also recommended for those who can be sure of their holiday plans, for not only will there be far more choice of seats and prices but the cash customer has a better chance of striking a deal which avoids any fuel surcharges which may come later in the summer.

"Bucket shops"—cut-price travel agents—offer seats on scheduled flights at large discounts.

Mr Riaz Dooly, who has

of these costs £226, including return air travel, car rental and the first night's accommodation. One package deal enables holidaymakers to pick up their vehicle at Los Angeles and leave it on the east coast after driving it across the country.

The same company has recently launched a "fly now, pay later" scheme under which intending holidaymakers to the United States can obtain holidays and flights to a value of £1,200 on credit subscription terms. The scheme is operated in association with Citibank Trust. Subscribers make monthly payments of between £20 and £100 and are then entitled to credit of up to 12 times their subscription.

Credit for full payment of a 1981 holiday is available at once on joining the scheme. Interest equivalent to an annual rate of 10 per cent is paid on any credit balance in the account, while interest is charged on debits at 2 per cent a month, which is equivalent to an annual rate of 26.8 per cent.

Mr Reg Pycroft, founder and managing director of Jetsave, said: "Holidays are now the most important annual purchase in most households, ranking above such things as new cars and furniture. We believe this scheme will be a great help for those who wish to go on holiday but find the immediate bill a strain in these recessionary times."

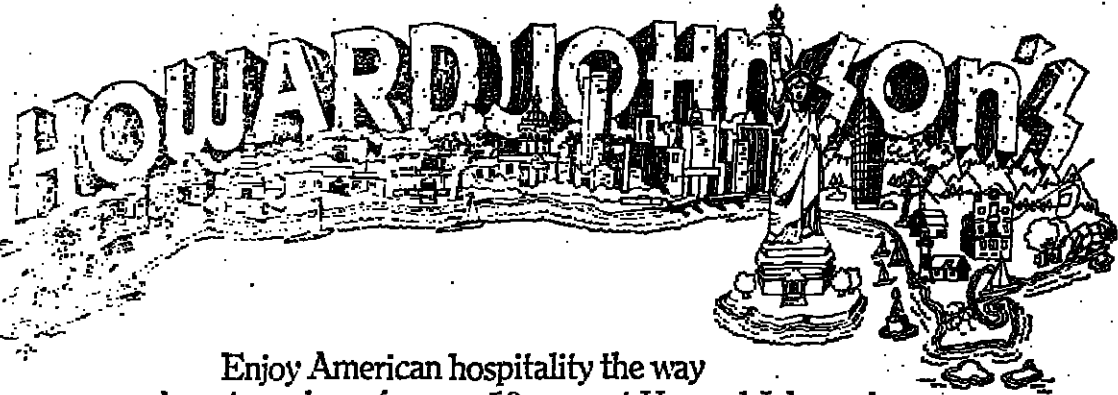
Cruising, and particularly out of the ports in Florida, is becoming increasingly popular, and many of the package deals offered by the airlines flying from Britain to the United States this year include this form of holiday. Cunard has an arrangement with British Airways under which it is possible to travel to New York on the liner QE2, a voyage which takes five days, and then fly home. The cost of the round trip starts at £520.

Jetsave also has "fly-drive" holidays in the United States. The cheapest

Arthur Reed  
Air Correspondent



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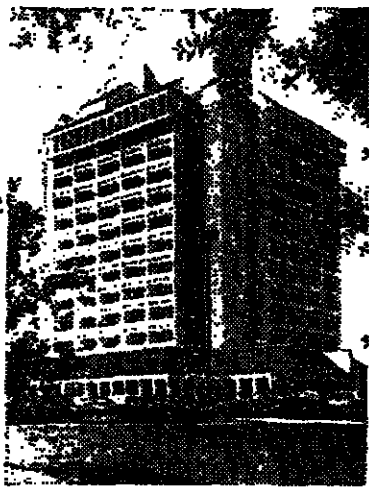
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## Museums

### As good as the French but better organized



Everyone knows about the great American art depositories. The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York is surpassed only by the Louvre, the National Gallery in Washington is comparable to the National Gallery in London and Chicago and Boston have enormous and splendid art galleries.

New York, Los Angeles, Washington, Philadelphia and Boston, like London and Paris, have a multiplicity of museums, including the Frick and the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Freer and the Hirshhorn in Washington, the Gardner in Boston and the Fogg in Harvard, across the river. Local museums in smaller places often contain important treasures, like French provincial museums, though they are invariably much better organized.

In New England, for instance, Manchester, New Hampshire, a boring little mill town, has a fine art gallery containing a Tiepolo, a fine Monet, a Constable and works by Greuze, Tintoretto and Degas. In Williamstown, in north-west Massachusetts, is the Clark Institute which has a large collection of Impressionists, a Piero della Francesca Madonna and Child, and the second finest collection of silver in the United States (the best is in Boston).

The big cities with big and important galleries include Houston, Detroit, Pittsburgh, Kansas City and Cleveland, whose other charms are not immediately apparent to visitors. More attractive cities with important museums include Philadelphia, St Louis, Baltimore, Los Angeles, San Francisco and New Haven (Yale). They are all large, rich and eclectic collections.

In Philadelphia, for instance, there is a large collection of the Impressionists and the most important collection of the works of Marcel Duchamp, including "Nue Descendant un Escalier". There is a separate Rodin Museum, the finest apart from the Musée Rodin in Paris, and the Barnes Collection. The Barnes, situated in a suburb called Merion, has the finest collection of Cézannes and Matisse in North America and the most preposterous rules concerning visitors: it is closed in July and August, is open on Fridays and Saturdays only (9.30 to 4.30) and Sundays (1 to 4.30). You should get there at opening time or book.

Always telephone small museums before visiting: they have many quirks of opening times. They are often closed on Mondays and a few shut for whole months in the summer.

The famous galleries in the big cities mentioned above are worth separate journeys. The best view of Detroit is from Canada, across the river: drive out through the horrible inner suburbs to the art museum, which has a huge and marvellous collection, including a famous La Tour,

for instance, and the I Rivera murals of the assembly line.

The J. Paul Getty Museum in Malibu, a suburb of Los Angeles, is the richest in the world. Before the price doubled last year, it cost \$800m. It is some interesting material, especially French 18th century furniture, a serious problem: how to spend \$2m a week?

Patrick Brog

## Parks

### Excitement starts at the Rocky Mountains

The tourist often flies to see the skyscrapers of New York; the jazz clubs of New Orleans, and the Golden Gate bridge in San Francisco, and misses the awesome and magnificent natural treasures of the American nation. The national and state parks cover millions of square miles, from the Everglades of Florida to the ice-fields of Alaska, from the lush mountainous pastures of Montana to the harsh desert of Arizona.

No tourist can hope, even in a dozen American holidays, to see all the parks: I shall describe my favourites. They are wonderfully looked after by the National Park Service, with excellent roads and hiking trails and all modern conveniences. There are camping grounds and inexpensive lodges (and some top-class hotels here and there), and shops, petrol stations, restaurants, and public transport in many of the parks.

There are no shortages of parks on the east coast, and thousands of people flock each summer to those in Maine and New Hampshire (Boston is the closest airport), and from there one may rent a car, and New York state; or out into the

countryside of Pennsylvania and down the Blue Ridge mountains of West Virginia and through Cumberland Gap and on southwards. But for me the true excitement of the parks starts at the Rocky Mountains.

Denver is the logical base for mountain country. The Rocky Mountain National Park offers splendid hikes and walks and is certainly worth a couple of days. The best place to stay is just at the entrance to the park in Estes Park, about 65 miles from Denver: it has a great variety of hotels, motels and restaurants. A hearty German meal can be had at the Edel Haus; and if you get the right room you can have a fine view from the Inn at Estes Park. The park service arranges lots of guided walks and hikes.

There are two separate and exciting routes to take through this park. If one drives through the park and on to the west, then about four or five hours after leaving Estes Park one can stop for a couple of hours at Dinosaur National Park in north-east Utah to see some stunning excavations, and from there across into Wyoming, where after a long ride and an overnight stay en route,

one can arrive at Jackson Hole. This small town also has an airport with service from Denver and Salt Lake City.

Now this is the frontier West, home of saloons and turn-of-the-century cowboy melodramas at the Pink Panther theatre and the location too of the Grand Teton mountains. There are modern hotels in Teton village, but there is more summer fun to be had driving north of Jackson and camping or staying at one of the lodges in Teton National Park. For even the novice the horse riding there with local cowboys is great fun, as is the rafting and the hiking within constant view of the peaks of the Teton mountains. The accommodation is good in this park, but you must book early and confirm reservations.

Farther north you reach Yellowstone National Park. It lacks the relaxing beauty of Rocky Mountain and Teton parks and is much more a place to come for just a couple of days to see geology in action, exploding, smelting and changing constantly as you watch. The change comes in handy for those who want to see the park in a couple of days to see geology in action, exploding, smelting and changing constantly as you watch. The change comes in handy for those who want to see the park in a couple of days to see geology in action, exploding, smelting and changing constantly as you watch.

Yellowstone is a huge park with more than 300 miles of roads. Perhaps the best place to stay is at Old Faithful geyser and make a couple of day trips from there to the Yellowstone Canyon and to Hot Springs. Finally, you can drive out of the park to the north and head for the Glacier National Park of Montana.

For me this park and Yosemite in California are the two great romantic parks, where one feels one can walk for days, ever turning to look at new magnificent vistas, smelling new plants and the lively trees and carefully watching all manner of little animals scurrying about. These are parks for picnics and easy-going mountain walks and waterfalls.

There are fine hotels in Glacier and transport between them by means of 1930s Swiss mountain buses. The "Going to the Sun" highway passes the park and offers one of the most memorable scenic drives to be found anywhere in the United States, but large caravans are banned. The nearest big city for air service is Great Falls, Montana, and from there bus and train services go to Glacier.

If you drive south of Estes Park across Colorado quite

different experiences you have. The last stop before the deserts is the stunning Mesa Verde park in Cortez and Durango. There are Indian pueblo ruins and restored in excellent fashion and certainly worth a trip. Book early and you can stay overnight at Mesa Verde Lodge, which saves a lot of travel. A tour directly south takes you to my favourite small canyon in America, Canyon de Chelly, with a Navajo Indian guide will drive you along a canyon floor on a trip you will never forget for sheer excitement and beauty. In California is the Yosemite National Park and its sister, Sequoia National Park. Yosemite offers everything from mountains to low, rolling valleys, from rough campsites to the elegant Ahwahnee Hotel. You could spend a month or two there, but the biggest attraction in the world and going on to walks and never be bored. But book early.

Frank Vo

### A four-week trip converts a reluctant wife

continued from previous page

renovated or even reconstructed as they were in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. All that unbeatable transatlantic flair for showmanship has gone into such projects, as it has into the presentation of exhibits in the museums. Many early railways have been maintained in working order, and it is still possible to take a covered wagon holiday in states like Kansas and Texas.

Much of the entertainment, particularly in big cities like New York, Chicago and San Francisco, is free. Even dams, like the huge one that straddles the Colorado River between Utah and Arizona, offer free self-guided tours. By European standards, American accommodation is luxurious. Hotels like the Utah in Salt Lake City, the Brown Palace in Denver, and Chicago's Drake are among the finest in the world, and their charges, given the quality of service and facilities offered, are very low. At the Drake an impeccable room for two starts at \$71 a night.

There are few "bad and breakfast" signs. Instead, Americans stay at motels, which are cheap, clean and offer all that is needed for an overnight stay. In 1980, prices in the western states averaged about \$21 a night for two. Often this price bought a room with two large beds.

Booking is not usually a problem, except in the peak holiday periods or in the national parks. There are so many motels that a room of some kind can usually be found on arrival. It is also possible to book ahead, by telephone, although there is a risk of finding the room gone if arrival is later than 6 pm; but most motel keepers will hold the room if the visitor rings to say he is on his way. Money. Although the system has taken a bit of a knock in recent years, America remains a largely cashless society, thanks to its peculiar banking laws. Major credit cards like American Express, Visa, Master Charge, and Diners Club are accepted all over the country, although America is unlikely to buy supplies of petrol at gas stations. Access can be used with at

most no difficulty, provided the card holder points out that it is linked with Master Charge—and the latter is taken at most petrol stations.

Apart from plastic money, travellers' cheques are widely used and present no difficulty, particularly if they are as well known as American Express and are drawn in fairly small denominations. Those in the region of \$50 can readily be used for paying for meals; the change comes in handy for tips and small cash purchases. With shopkeepers and restaurant owners so willing to take such tender, there is no need to go to a bank for change. (£=52.40.) While most things in the United States are cheap by European standards, payment for medical services can be ruinously expensive. It is not wise, therefore, to ignore insurance. Several companies, and organizations like BUPA, offer cover at varying rates.

As an example, most members of the Association of British Travel Agents will quote to purchasers of Apex tickets a charge of £19 a person for cover up to six months. This safeguards the

traveller against medical expenses up to £50,000, loss of baggage up to £600, loss of personal money up to £200, and a host of other potential calamities. Finally, do travel light. Almost everything you might think you will need en route can be purchased as cheaply, if not cheaper, on arrival, be it clothing, films or tobacco. America will supply any type of goods, any service, to those who can pay for it, almost at any time of the day or night.

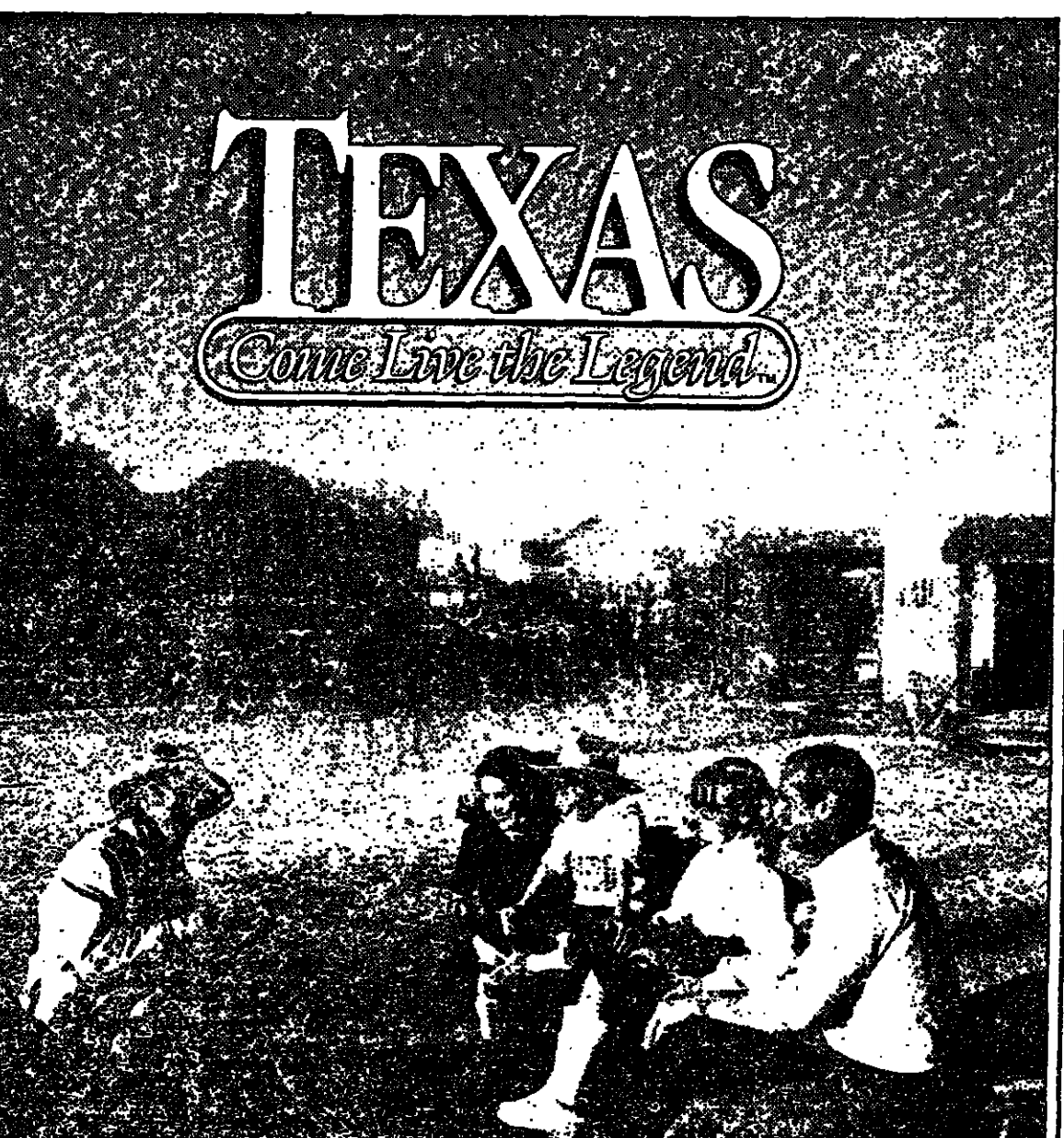
What kind of welcome awaits you? To say "the warmest" is grossly to underestimate. Americans, particularly in the West and the South, exude a hospitality and generosity to foreigners, and particularly to Britons, that is at times almost embarrassing. You will come back feeling that you have more friends across the Atlantic than you have in your own country; and so low is the cost of travelling to and through the States nowadays, I guarantee that you will be only too willing to take up the Texan and Southerners' wish that "y'all come back again—real soon".

Dennis Topping

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On the following pages the United States is divided into areas which can be reached from the major direct flight 'gateway' airports. Times writers give examples of places to see, things to do, ways to travel for a short or long stay

## Gateways: Los Angeles ...

## Balmy weather—and a touch of the tinsel

Los Angeles, aficionados of San Francisco notwithstanding, is really the international gateway to the West Coast. Its fame as a city, forgetting the film studios, Disneyland and all its more obvious tourist attractions, rests on its balmy weather and its superb variety of different holiday environments within easy drive of the city.

In two hours you can be in the desert, say at Palm Springs, a resort oasis of swimming pools, tennis courts and golf courses with temperatures in the summer unbearable, hovering around 110°, but in the winter a delightful 80° or so.

An equal drive will take you to alpine communities like Lake Arrowhead and Big Bear, 7,000ft up in the mountains with crystal clear lakes, pine trees and chalets. Half an hour from Los Angeles airport are some of the finest beaches in the world, including Santa Monica, a 1930s-style seaside community which seems to be the magnet for British tourists, and houses Los Angeles's largest British population in exile. Southern

California has about 350,000 Britons at last count.

It is undeniable, however, that for many, Los Angeles's chief attraction is its touch of the tinsel. It has film studios, streets familiar to television viewers as the locale for just about every show they see on the home screens, and the opportunity in the more rarified atmosphere of Beverly Hills to spot Doris Day pedalling around on her bicycle, or Zsa Zsa Gabor popping out of her Rolls on the fashionable Rodeo Drive to pick up something to wear. The bolder tourist, for the price of a cocktail, can pop along to the Polo Lounge of the Beverly Hills Hotel and spot anyone from Rex Harrison to Gene Kelly supping with their agents.

A mandatory visit is to Disneyland, 30 miles from the centre of Los Angeles, and accessible by car or bus. Families with children who want to make a holiday out of Disneyland, in itself, might consider booking into the Disneyland Hotel, or more modestly into any of the assortment of motels that ring the park in Anaheim. The Universal Studio tour is a pre-packaged, pre-

digested glimpse of how and where the movies and television shows are made.

Marineland of the Pacific is an exciting aquatic theme park on the outskirts of Los Angeles, 45 minutes to an hour's drive; from there you can venture to Long Beach and tread the decks of the refurbished Queen Mary. A delightful two-hour boat trip will take you to Catalina Island, whose capital, Avalon, has not changed in 50 years. The island, owned by the Wrigley chewing gum family, is the perfect spot for children and you can stay there in a variety of hotels, but these are scarce and should be booked in advance. In case of problems the boat goes back to the mainland every evening and there are air and helicopter connections as well. It is a treat that too many tourists overlook.

The cheapest free show in Los Angeles is to be found in the Venice boardwalk every Sunday, with its roller skaters, jugglers, bikini-clad bicyclists, joggers mingling, with buskers, street vendors, beggars, antique and art sellers. It is a movable bohemian feast, completely different from the some-

times plastic over-hygienic South California environ-

ment that surrounds it and it all takes place along miles of white sandy beaches fringed with palm trees.

For the culture oriented visitor, despite the feeling abroad that Los Angeles is a city of barbarians, there are several superior art museums—the County Museum of Art, the Getty Museum in Malibu, a recreation of a Roman Villa with a superb collection of classical sculpture and French furniture, the Norton Simon Museum and the Huntington Hartford Museum, both in Pasadena, both with world-class collections.

For the music and theatre lover there is the Los Angeles Music Centre, a complex of two theatres and a concert hall for which the money and the energy was supplied by Dorothy Chandler, wife of the late publisher of the Los Angeles Times. The Los Angeles Philharmonic, one of the world's great orchestras, now under the direction of Carlo Maria Giulini, plays its season at the Music Centre in winter and the Hollywood Bowl in summer. No holiday in Los Angeles is complete without an evening picnic and Bowl concert.

If you base yourself in Los Angeles and rent a car, the best way to see the country) you can easily take in San Diego and La Jolla, 120 miles to the south (two-and-a-half hours easy drive), which boasts Sea World, a huge aquatic park, the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, the Salk Institute for Medical Research (Dr Jonas Salk is the discoverer of the polio vaccine), a superb modern art museum and an interesting campus of the University of California. In San Diego there is an old town, a colourful Mexican shopping bazaar with multiple restaurants and shopping stores and not to be missed is Coronado Island, connected to the mainland by a bridge, which boasts one of America's finest old hotels, the Victorian Coronado, where legend has it the Duke of Windsor first set eyes on Mrs Simpson.

For a grittier experience there is the cross-border trip from San Diego into Mexico's border town of Tijuana with its street markets, its native colour and unfortunately its crime, poverty, vice and squalor. It is simply a tourist trap and should never be viewed as representative of what Mexico has to offer. It is advisable to park on the American side and walk over the border.

It is an acceptable drive from Los Angeles to San Francisco, with some superb scenery along the way, and if you are driving north through Los Angeles there are some interesting stops along the way, Santa Barbara for example, a beautiful old Spanish town. Lunch on the terrace of the magnificent Old Biltmore Hotel is not to be missed—lunch is reasonable, the view is priceless. A half-hour farther north is Solvang, an entirely Danish community in the green rolling countryside of the Santa Ynez Valley, complete with tourist shops and restaurants.

But perhaps the most interesting stop on the way to San Francisco is the house that William Randolph Hearst built on the top of a mountain at San Simeon. The place is a palace

jammed with art, antiques and the kind of opulence

that no one, not even monarchs, can afford anymore. Three different tours of the estate are offered. In summer visitors should book well in advance through a ticket agency. The castle is operated by the California Department of Parks and Recreation and a letter to the agency at San Simeon, California will elicit a brochure about the tours well worth studying in advance.

San Simeon is almost half way between Los Angeles and San Francisco. If you are leery of freeway driving there are other ways to get around, even in this car-bound society. Amtrak, the national train service, runs a train called the Coast Starlight every day all the way from Los Angeles to Seattle—a 30-hour trip. For San Francisco visitors, the train stops at Oakland on the other side of the bay and there is a bus connection—a 30-minute ride—to the centre of San Francisco.

The Starlight leaves Los Angeles at 10 am and deposits San Francisco passengers at 8.25 pm. It travels along the picturesque coast for some 200 miles, then goes inland at San Luis Obispo through the Steinbeck country and the farmlands of the Salinas Valley.

During peak holiday times the train is heavily overbooked so trips should be planned well in advance. The train has a restaurant car and snack bars and the one way fare to San Francisco is \$34. Passengers continuing all the way up the coast to Seattle can take a ferry from there into Vancouver, Canada. And for the more adventurous with more time there is the Alaska railway, which will eventually take you to Mount McKinley, the highest peak in North America.

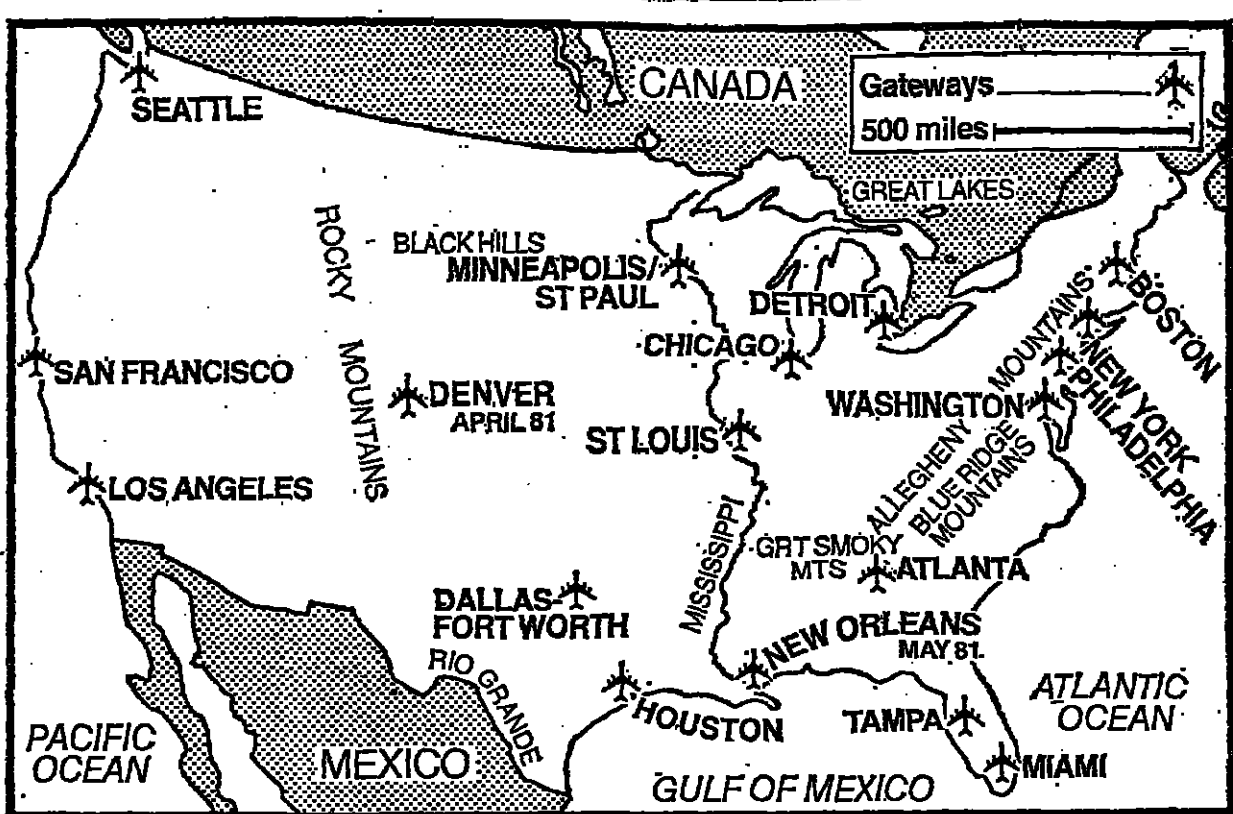
Train trips from Los Angeles can also be taken to the Las Vegas gambling islands—a 30-minute air-trip, or a five-and-a-half hour drive, but closer to seven hours by train. The Desert Wind train then goes on from Vegas to Salt Lake City, the bastion of Mormonism and gateway in the winter to some of the country's best skiing slopes.

Amtrak also runs a train to the Grand Canyon (actually it goes to Flagstaff, Arizona, with a bus connection to the canyon). As in Britain, Amtrak offers an unlimited travel pass (USA Rail pass)—great value if you plan to use the rails a lot. A sleeper on the train to the Grand Canyon will cost you \$35.50 extra.

Most British visitors come in search of the sun but for the ski crowd the favourable rate of exchange makes a winter holiday there more and more attractive. Skiing is as close as two hours from Los Angeles, or farther away in the mountains of Utah and Colorado. There are a variety of ski package holidays out of Los Angeles which can be booked in advance.

For summer travel do not overlook the West Coast by Greyhound bus, via its unlimited travel, 30-day American pass. You do not have to worry about the price of petrol (actually a bargain for Britons at \$1.25 a gallon) wear and tear on the driver or the chance of accidents. The buses are air conditioned, carry their own lavatories and it is by far the cheapest way to travel.

Ivor Davis



The Venice boardwalk, the cheapest free show in Los Angeles.

## ... San Francisco

## Cosmopolitan and feels like a real city

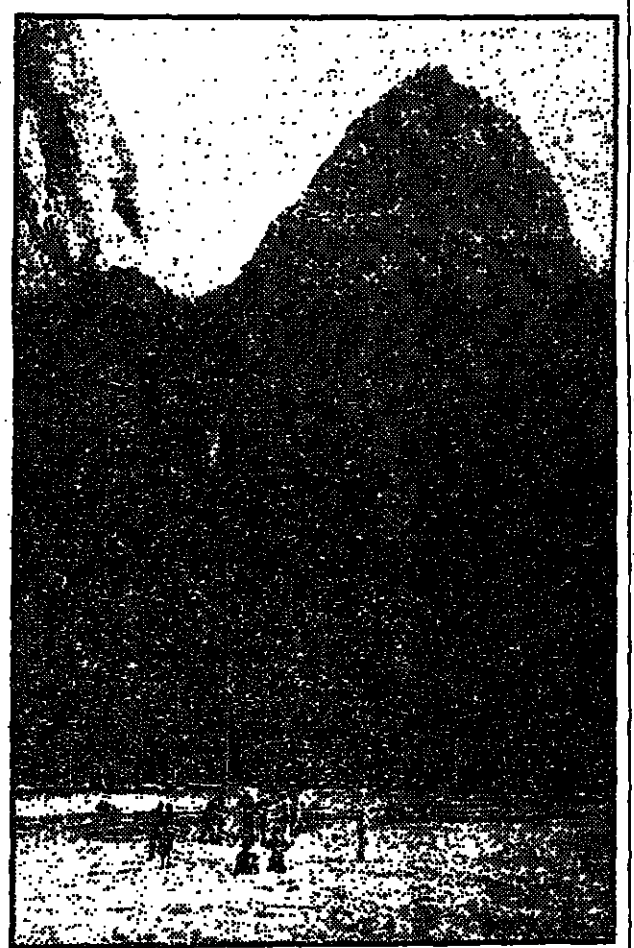
Someone once said: "every man should be allowed to love two cities—his own and San Francisco". And certainly it is the west coast city that Europeans are most comfortable with. Unlike Los Angeles it has a centre, it is small, controllable, has good public transport and it feels like a real city.

Its attractions are its cosmopolitan flavour, derived from its largely French, Italian, Irish and Chinese communities, its beautiful position on the hills surrounding the Bay, its Golden Gate Bridge, one of the world's engineering marvels and its wonderful food.

It is also much cooler than Los Angeles. You can still ride its national landmark, the cable car, though they are inclined to be creaky these days and to break down. San Francisco and Los Angeles are both in California—that is about as much as they have in common. Residents reserve the same affection for each other as that displayed between the denizens of Edinburgh and Glasgow.

Hotel accommodation in San Francisco varies widely—from the Nob Hill luxury rooms, through a marvellous collection of smaller Victorian hotels with grace and charm and convenient location to the more plastic motels that ring the city.

One of the chief points of interest within the confines of the city is Fisherman's Wharf, a creaky but fun cable car ride from Union Square, where the fishing fleets unload their catches into the cauldrons of the Italian-run seafood restaurants that ring the wharf. Next to them is the Cannery, an updated warehouse-style arcade of galleries, shops and restaurants and across town is another fashionable shopping arcade, Ghirardelli Square.



About 200 miles south of San Francisco is Yosemite National Park.

San Francisco's Chinatown is the most colourful and authentic in America with the best and most reasonably-priced restaurants. Telegraph Hill is the Bohemian section of the city, once the home of artists, it was then passed through by the beatniks and the flower children and now is undergoing a renaissance and is a mish-mash of

expensive apartments and rickety little cabins.

For the culturally inclined there is the opera, in season, the New Symphony Hall, the California Palace of the Legion of Honour—a repository of French art with a magnificent view of the Bay—and the Palace of Fine Arts on the edge of a natural lagoon in the Marina district.

The city is justly renowned for its food, with far and away the best French, Italian, Chinese and

continued on next page

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Gateways: Seattle...

# The great outdoors

One of the major gateways to Alaska bills itself proudly as "the most livable city in America"—and that means clean air, pure water and uncrowded roads. Compared to Los Angeles county—with its more than seven million residents—Seattle, with just over half a million, is a small town. For those looking for a great outdoors holiday, there is plenty of fishing, boating, skiing, camping and climbing within easy driving distance of Seattle. It is just a few hours drive into Idaho along scenic routes that take you past such glamorous sounding places as Snake River Gorge, the Cascade Mountains and the Columbia River. It is fairly easy to travel to British Columbia from Seattle either by road, some 100 miles, by plane (less than 30 minutes) or by water—two and a half hours on the hydrofoil or four and a half hours on the ferry which deposits passengers in Victoria. For the more adventurous at heart there is a three and a half day trip via the Alaska Steamship Company, which is part of the State of Alaska's public transportation system, to Skagway, Alaska. Alaska-bound passengers can go in grand style—a sleeping berth on the steamship, round trip ticket for two is \$742—or for the budget-minded you can sleep in the lounge of the boat—known as the solarium—for \$138 one way. The Pacific Northwest is cooler than southern California, with summer temperatures averaging 68°. Many visitors start from Seattle and head south along the picturesque coast into the state of Oregon. —Ivor Davis

## Feels like a real city

continued from previous page

Russian restaurants on the West Coast. It now has a subway system, Bart, which connects San Francisco with Oakland under the Bay and with Berkeley, home of one of the rowdier campuses of the University of California. Try to avoid driving in the city. Parking is impossible, traffic is awful, with a maze of one-way streets, and the pitch of the hills can be terrifying. A variety of good public transport is available. There are plenty of cabs and a car is a distinct liability. From Fisherman's Wharf, a mile and a half ferry ride takes you to the notorious Alcatraz Prison now run by the National Parks Service, affording you a glimpse of Al Capone's cell—and the San Francisco skyline. Tour information from the Parks Service. From San Francisco one can reach some of the most magnificent scenery in the West. North are the Redwood forests, those natural cathedrals of breathtaking splendour which run 550 miles north of San Francisco to the south-west corner of the state of Oregon on the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada. Also north of San Francisco is the Russian River, a scenic recreation area. The river flows south for several miles, then turns inland through redwood groves and vineyards before rejoining the Pacific. About 200 miles south of San Francisco is Yosemite National Park, a wonder of meadows, rivers and tall mountains, the most popular state in the union and it is from cabins to tents, to a three-hour drive from San Francisco, very hot in summer, but pleasant the rest of the year. With the pound doing so well, a western American holiday is one of the best bargains for Britons. Dining out, particularly, will seem reasonable with dinner at a top restaurant available for \$20, a person, including a good California wine. Hotels are uniformly good, from the high-priced luxury hotels in San Francisco and Los Angeles, about \$100 a night, to the plentiful motel/hotels, clean and efficient with private bath, colour television, air conditioning and pool, which run at about \$35 to \$45 and more per couple. Planning ahead information can be had from the Greater Los Angeles Visitor's Bureau, 505 South Flower Street, Los Angeles California 90071, serving all of Southern California, and the San Francisco Convention and Visitor's Bureau, 1390 Market Street, San Francisco. For Automobile Association members there is a superb and detailed California/Nevada Tour book which will tell you everything you need to know about the two states. The Auto Club also provides similarly detailed booklets on other parts of the North-west. The Greyhound offers the Ameripass for 30-day, unlimited travel, which is obtainable from its London office. Amtrak offers seven, 14, 21 and 28 day passes known as the USA Rail pass, which can be obtained through any Thomas Cook office. I. D.



The pastboard version has been the backdrop to numerous Hollywood shoot-outs. This is Front Street, Dodge City, Kansas, where Wyatt Earp and tamed the bad men. The original burnt down almost a century ago, but has been faithfully recreated from photographs.

... Chicago, Detroit, Minneapolis/St Paul, Denver ...

## Trail to mid-West follows famous rail links

Those who want to discover what many regard as the real America should choose the northern gateways of Chicago, Detroit and Minneapolis/St Paul. These give direct access not only to the mid-West but also to the more northerly of America's 17 western states. It could be argued that the West begins at Omaha, Nebraska, where most that is old in American history gives way to much that is new. From this city the great Union Pacific Railroad began its drive to San Francisco, eventually linking the continent "from sea to shining sea". To the north lie the Black Hills of Dakota, the last sacred Sioux burial ground. Westward, along the line followed by the Union Pacific, is the Oregon Trail through Fort Laramie, Wyoming, and parallel to this, the route taken by the Mormons in their search for the promised land by the Great Salt Lake. If the traveller to Omaha turns south, a drive of seven to 10 hours will take him to the cowtowns of Kansas, such as Wichita and Dodge City—the latter with its marvelously re-created Front Street. To the south-west is Pike's Peak and the splendour of the Colorado Rockies, or the beautiful national parks, canyons and lakes of southern Utah. By crossing the Missouri River and returning to the entry points, the visitor can savour again the atmosphere of the great farming and industrial centres of Chicago and Detroit, back in the rolling agricultural richness of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa, or gaze in awe at the vastness of the Great Lakes. The three mid-Western gateways give entry to an area which is probably as diverse, both historically and scenically, as any in the nation. Detroit is an ideal starting point for the older states of Michigan and Indiana. It also gives easy access to the resort areas around Lakes Erie, Huron and Michigan, and to Canada. If travelling is kept to a minimum, this is the place to stay. The Greyhound service, for instance, takes only about six hours to reach Chicago from Detroit, at a one-way cost of less than \$30. Minneapolis/St Paul will attract those who wish to explore Minnesota and Wisconsin. It is also one of the main starting points for the Dakotas, Montana, Wyoming and Nebraska, which make up the "old west" region of the United States. Access to towns within them by air is almost always through Minneapolis/St Paul, Denver or Salt Lake City. Chicago, with its busy O'Hare International Airport, is one of the biggest transport centres in America. Flights to Denver and Salt Lake City take 2 hours 30 minutes and 3 hours 10 minutes respectively; if added to an Apex ticket bought in London, the extra cost is £41 and £63.50. Typical Apex returns from London up to about mid-June are £322 to Chicago and £326 to Salt Lake City (8 hours 30 minutes and 10 hours respectively). Northwest Orient begins a direct flight to Denver from April. Amtrak offers train services from Chicago to most other parts of the United States. There are basically two major passenger services westward. That to Denver costs \$110 one way, and the other—to Seattle—charges \$95 to Williston, Montana. One of America's most picturesque rail journeys is operated not by Amtrak but by the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad; it takes 14 hours to cover the 570 miles of mountain track between Denver and Salt Lake City (\$46.50 one way). Although the distances are vast, roads are first class and travelling times relatively short. Those who plan to tour would do best to choose a base after arrival at one of the "gateways" and then hire a car. Hertz, for example, offers a medium-sized vehicle such as a four-door Ford Fairmont in Denver for \$179 a week or \$550 a month, with unlimited mileage if it is returned to Denver. From Chicago, Omaha is 10 hours by road via Des Moines, Denver another 11 hours or so on from Omaha, and Salt Lake City a good 12 hours from the Colorado capital. Road times are slower in western Colorado, Montana, Wyoming and northern Utah because of the up-and-down nature of the roads over the Continental Divide. Those who favour big city life will not want to wander far from Chicago, which is now one of the most attractive of all America's urban conurbations. The stockyards have long since gone, but many of the millionaires' mansions still stand on the magnificent Lake Shore Drive. Good centres for touring include Rapid City, South Dakota, easily accessible by air from Minneapolis/St Paul or Denver. It is close to Deadwood City, Lead and Mount Rushmore in the Black Hills and to the Dakota Badlands, with their weird rock formations. An onward flight from Minneapolis to Rapid City, bought in advance in Britain, would cost an extra £1.50; the flying time is 2 hours 35 minutes. Denver is reasonably close to the Rocky Mountain National Park to the north-east, and to such gold and silver towns as Leadville and Cripple Creek or, in the state's renowned ski resorts such as Vail and Aspen. In two or three weeks it is possible comfortably to explore as far south as the Grand Canyon in Northern Arizona. Flower-filled Salt Lake City, built by the Mormons to Brigham Young's directions, is one of the most beautiful and fascinating cities in the west. In the southern part of Utah, two or three days' easy drive from the state capital, is the enormous Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and the sumptuous national parks of Zion, Bryce Canyon and Capitol Reef. Some of America's grandest and most historic hotels are situated in this area. The Drake in Chicago has four restaurants; a superbly trained staff of 950 who look after the 700 rooms, many of them, Michigan; and a reputation that has attracted to its doors every royal personage to visit the Windy City. Its rates for a room for two range from \$71 to \$114 a night. In Denver the famous Brown Palace has played host to the "Unsinkable" Molly Brown, "Buffalo Bill" Cody, John Philip Sousa, and almost every president elected since it was opened 88 years ago. Expect to pay about \$35 to \$90 a night for two. The Hotel Utah in Salt Lake City, like Chicago's Drake, ranks among the finest in the world. Built and opened 70 years ago by the Mormons, it stands within a few paces of Temple Square and offers some of the finest food available anywhere in its award-winning restaurant, The Roof. Prices are about \$90 a night.

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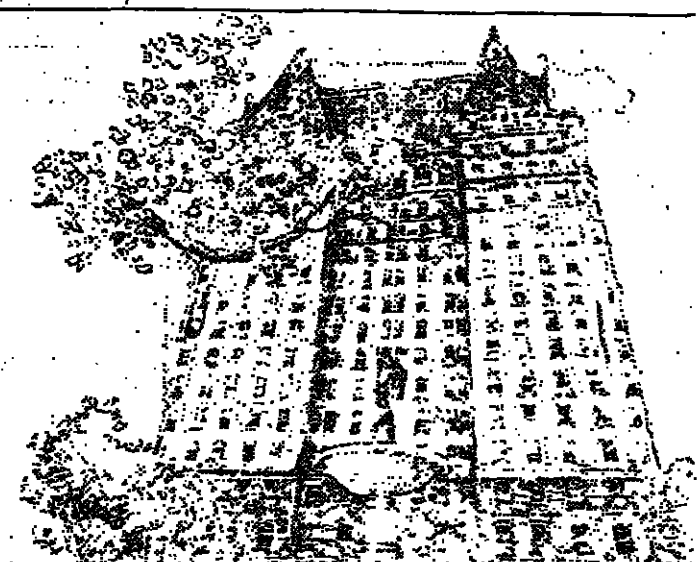
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... Houston, Dallas-Fort Worth ...

## Real cowboy country opens to traveller

The two gateways of Houston and Dallas-Fort Worth open up to the traveller America's real cowboy country—the states of Oklahoma, New Mexico and Texas, all synonymous with the Wild West.

This is the land of the Apache, the Choctaw and the Comanche. In it are legendary towns like Santa Fe, Tulsa, El Paso, Laredo and San Antonio, with its famous Alamo mission. Fairly cheap transatlantic travel means that the excitement and fascination of the Wild American 1800s is no more than an aircraft ride away.

External airline systems from Houston, Dallas and all the three states' main cities are a joy to use and are often very cheap. Domestic airline prices vary frequently, so it is best to shop around for the best deal. Many of the large cities have more than one airport. Each of the two gateways has two primary airports. Most transatlantic flights arrive at Houston's intercontinental, 16 miles north of the city centre, but a lot of local air traffic is routed through Hobby airport, nine miles to the south-east.

Dallas-Fort Worth airport lies nearer to Arlington than its two namesakes, but Love Field, a main domestic airport, is only five miles from the Dallas city centre and 13 miles from the intercontinental airport.

Getting round the three states by car is generally easy. Co arrival is more common nowadays, get astride a Ford Mustang or Pinto rather than the four-legged variety. All the big car hire firms have desks adjacent to the arrival gates and it pays to shop for the best deal. As a rough guide, a week's hire of a Ford Mustang from Hertz at Houston airport with unlimited mileage costs \$200, provided the car is returned to Houston.

If the vehicle is dropped at another airport, the whole system changes to a daily charge plus mileage. This can be expensive. Travellers can arrange for a car to await them at their destination by ordering through the relevant hire company's offices in Britain, or booking a package like the Blue Sky Fly Drive. The latter's summer prices start from £324 a person for seven nights, including hotel vouchers.

The London-based travel company Magic of Texas offers 13-day Wild West Tours from £693. This combines San Antonio with the Texas hill country, Langtry and the river, San Antonio, and includes the Big Bend country, El Paso and a visit over the border to Juarez.

Buses and trains are available. Greyhound runs excellent and inexpensive inter-city services, as does its major competitor, Trailways, based in Dallas. This year Trailways is offering discount US passes, enabling tourists to travel anywhere

in America from \$120 a week.

Amtrak, the national passenger railway, serves the country—the states of Oklahoma, New Mexico and Texas, all synonymous with the south-western states. Texas is the only one that comes out with a reasonable route system. New Mexico has only two routes passing through from neighbouring states, and Oklahoma is forgotten. As a senior tourist executive said in Austin: "Only railway enthusiasts travel by train nowadays."

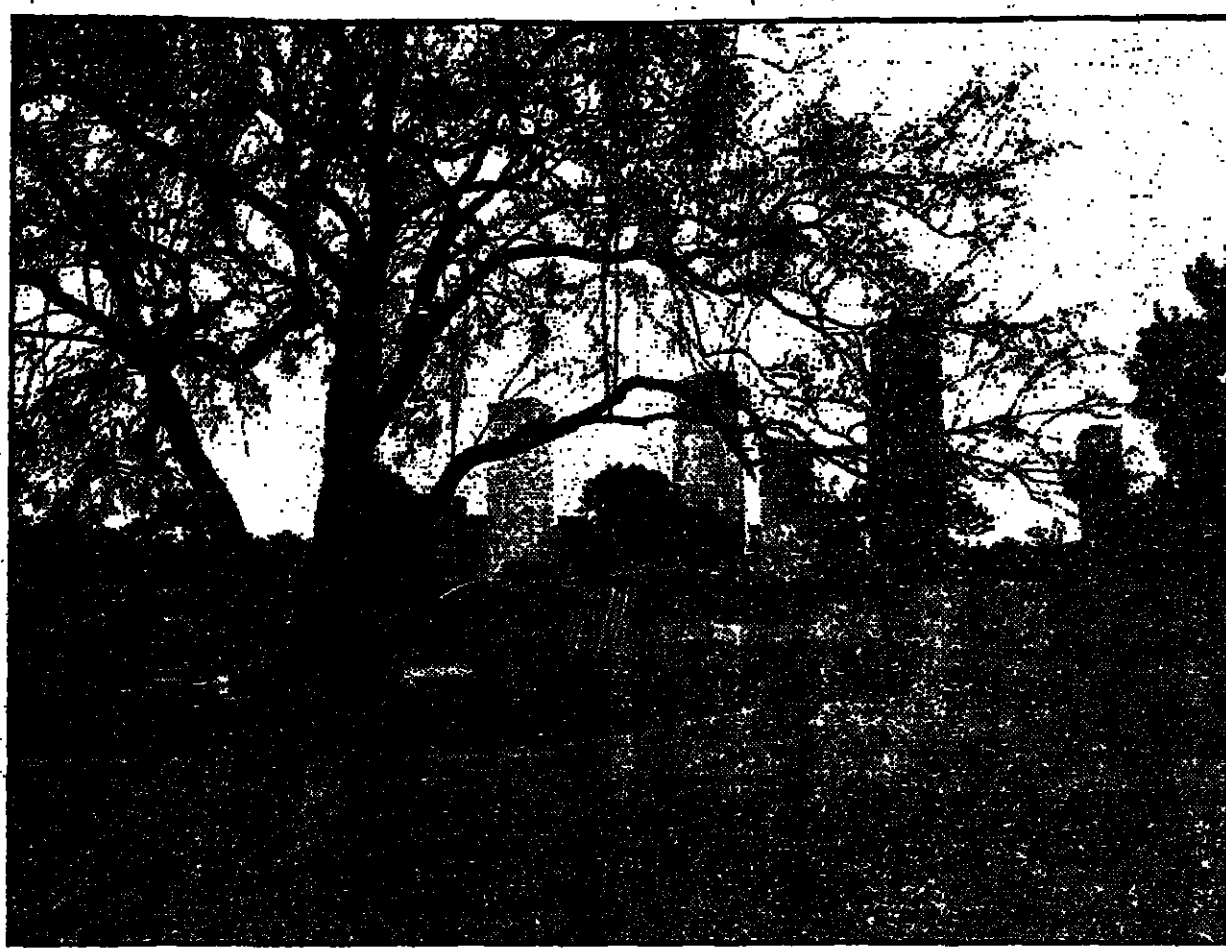
Oklahoma has the largest Indian population of any state in America. The name comes from two Choctaw words—*okla*, meaning people, and *humma*, for red. It is a land of many contrasts, with hills, plains and forests. Oklahoma's most famous son, the film star and cowboy philosopher Will Rogers, is honoured everywhere. A major attraction for any cowboy historian is the beautifully-sited National Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City. There are displays of Western art and a library of books and documents on frontier development.

The second largest city is Tulsa, familiar from the song *24 hours from Tulsa*. In a typically American nationwide poll, the town was acclaimed as "the most all-round desirable place to live", partly because of its location in beautiful rolling hills.

Daily, non-stop American Airlines services link Oklahoma City with Tulsa and Dallas-Fort Worth, taking about 50 minutes to either destination. Each also has a daily Braniff service from Houston. In the summer temperatures often go over 100°F. Snow sometimes falls in the north-west but is seldom seen in the south-east. As Will Rogers said: "If you don't like the weather in Oklahoma, just wait a few minutes."

New Mexico is America's fifth largest state. Los Alamos, high in the mountains, 60 miles north of Albuquerque, was built by the government in 1942 to house the scientists and technicians who built the first atomic bomb. The project was accomplished almost in privacy, and there are still vast regions of New Mexico that are thinly populated. The state is beautiful, with great mountain ranges, rocky deserts, rugged canyons and wild forests covering thousands of square miles.

The climate is dry and warm but because of the thinness of the atmosphere the temperature drops sharply at night. Santa Fe, captured by Confederate troops during the Civil War, is the oldest seat of government in the United States and serves as the state capital. After the hostilities ended there were two years of battles with the Apache and Navaho Indians. Kit Carson, the famous frontier scout, led the New Mexicans during the Indian campaigns.



A children's playground in Houston. Right: inside the State Capitol Building, Austin.

A grisly chapter in New Mexico's history was the Lincoln County war when cattlemen and other groups were fighting for political control. It was during this time that Billy the Kid and other gunmen made their mark. The gunfighting came to an end when Governor Lew Wallace declared martial law.

As one of the state's official guides says: "The most famous tourist attraction in New Mexico is a hole in the ground." The huge Carlsbad Caverns, on the Texas border, is an underground fairland of limestone formations. A tour of just three of its 23 miles of passages, 800ft below ground, takes four hours.

For years, Santa Fe was the commercial centre of the south-western states. Several great trade routes reached it—the Old Spanish Trail, the Chihuahuan Trail, and the famous Santa Fe Trail itself, which crossed the plains to the Oklahoma and Kansas border.

High on the list of places to visit is the Palace of the Governors, opposite the Santa Fe Trail marker in the Plaza. It was there that Governor Lew Wallace wrote the novel *Ben Hur*, with the shades of his windows drawn because Billy the Kid had vowed to kill him.

Austin, named after Stephen F. Austin, the "Father of Texas", is the hub city of Texas. The centre

piece of the city is the State Capitol building, a massive, classic stonework of famous Texas pink granite which dominates the park-like area it occupies. Free guided tours are available between 8.15 and 4.30. Houston is the state's largest town, and ranks sixth in size in the United States. It is named after San Houston, general of the Texas army, and has experienced remarkable growth since its birth as a small riverboat landing in 1836.

High on Houston's list of places to visit is the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, headquarters of America's space programme and the famous mission control that guided pioneering astronauts. Exhibits include spacecraft that have been to the Moon and examples of space technology beyond imagination. Entry is free and the area provides the best value visit in Texas.

No visit should pass without a pilgrimage to San Antonio and the Alamo. The mission, established itself in 1836 as the Cradle of Texas Liberty when outnumbered Texans gallantly challenged the Mexican army.

Defenders, including William Travis, Davy Crockett and Jim Bowie, died to the last man. On the southern point of the state lies the town of Harlingen with its neighbouring seaside paradise South Padre Island. The area is known as the Lower Rio Grande Valley and is fast becoming the most popular holiday resort of the south-western states. The

long and narrow Padre sand island sweeps in a golden arc more than 110 miles north to Corpus Christi.

A wide range of accommodation is available: from hotels, motels, marinas and seaside leisure homes. Local restaurants specialize in delicious seafood harvested daily from the Gulf of Mexico. The miles of beautiful gently sloping beaches are perfect for swimming and surf fishing.

Aviation buffs will find in Harlingen the Confederate Air Force Flying Museum, dedicated to the preservation, in flying condition, of obsolete Second World War aircraft.

Accommodation generally is not hard to find in the south-west. Holiday Inns, Howard Johnson's, Roadway and the excellent Ramada Inn hotels are in abundance in the area. There should be no problem in getting a room for the night as long as it is not left too late in the evening. Motels on the outskirts of the major towns are less expensive than their city equivalents. Room costs work out at about \$40 a night for two in a good-quality motel like Ramada and Holiday Inns. It is possible to get rooms for half this price but the standard in cleanliness can drop markedly.

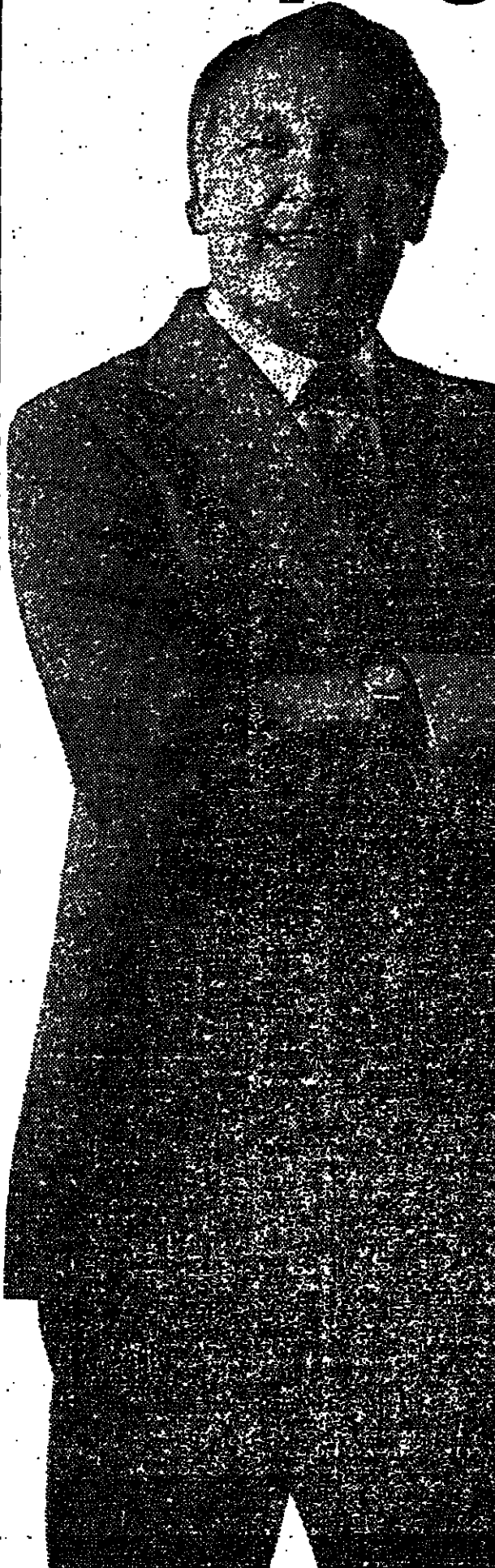
Bars come in all shapes and sizes. The main types to look for are known as "mixed drinks" bars. These specialize in cocktails but sell everything. During the "happy hour", which usually lasts for longer, drinks are half price. Most mixed drinks bars have popcorn or nuts on the bar. In Texas the customers usually put a pocketful of money on the counter if they are going to run up a tab, and this can

make a crowded bar look like a casino in Las Vegas. Tipping is from 10 to 15 per cent and must not be forgotten.

Everybody in these cowboy states, particularly Texas, says "howdy", or "how are you". They are amiable people and do not really expect you to strike up a conversation. Just say "howdy" in return.

Ted Trott

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... Atlanta, St Louis, New Orleans

## Slow-moving 'nation' retains own identity

The South is another country. It is Uncle Remus and Elvis Presley. William Faulkner and W. C. Handy, a slow-moving nation within a nation which retains its own identity more positively than any other part of the United States.

Most Southerners have never been anywhere else in America, let alone the world, and have never seen any reason to. In Arkansas, whole towns are populated by descendants of the Cherokee who have never travelled outside their country. The welcome in the warmest, the watching rural America away from the normal tourist haunts.

But more obvious attractions are there for those who want them. New Orleans ranks alongside New York, London and Paris as one of the great tourist centres of the world. It is a blend of sounds, smells, sights and tastes which exists simply to stimulate the senses—decadence incarnate.

Elsewhere is the gigantic natural beauty which we have come to expect, the vast swamps on which New Orleans is built, the slow muddy Mississippi which crawls, a natural boundary through its heart from Minnesota, and the Great Smoky Mountains, the mist which gave them their name threatening its way through rolling forests and tortuous waters.

The South belies every preconception which the British visitor is likely to hold. It is verdant, and for the main part, free of some of the more libberal notions which are re-emerging in the states about race, the morality of the Origin of Species and the wickedness of drink. One minor exception is Lynchburg, Tennessee, where

one of the finest Southern whiskeys, Jack Daniels, is made in the full view of admiring tourists, whose visit is ended with the offer of a glass of lemonade.

Lynchburg may earn most of its income from Jack Daniels but it is a dry country. It is just this sort of illogicality which makes the South what it is, the home of Decatur, grays and Wayne Jennings and an insidiously addictive way of life which sees more worth in living today than thinking about tomorrow.

The North never understood the South and still does not. Woody Allen's *Manhattan* gull and introspection might as well come from the moon. The citizens of Plains, Georgia, must be hoping sincerely that Mr Jimmy Carter will not return home with any bad habits from Washington.

New Orleans is the most visited city of the South. The atmosphere of its heart, the French Quarter, is exotic. True the sex shops and hookers have moved in, but it remains excitingly vibrant.

The nightlife means music, walking down Bourbon Street listening to the jazz coming from the open bars, visiting Preservation Hall, and drinking the New Orleans cocktail, the Hurricane, in Pat O'Brien's.

The day can be spent visiting the swamp surrounding the city and the old plantations located there, travelling on an old Mississippi paddle steamer, or visiting fine pre-Civil War mansions.

The finest state in the South is Tennessee, which stretches from Memphis in the west to the Smokies in the east, with Nashville in

the centre. Memphis is a glorious city, full of life and only just waking up to its tourist potential. Most of the visitors of the past have been Elvis Presley fans seeking a glance at the late singer's mansion Graceland, where he is now buried. Graceland should be seen if only to witness an American worshipping of the dead which outstrips anything appearing in *The Loved Ones*.

Nashville is country music, epitomized in Grand Ole Opry-land, a vast musical theme park. Some interesting southern architecture remains, however, and the city does make an interesting stop on the way to the Smokies. The base of the Appalachians which stretch from Pennsylvania, the Smokies are a lush and peaceful respite from the hurly-burly of the rest of the world. The wildlife, which includes bears, is interesting and fishing is particularly good. Tackle can be hired easily.

Stay in Pigeon Forge or Cherokee, not Gatlinburg, the centre of the Smokies, which has become hideously commercialized. Tempting as it may sound, avoid Chatanooga nearby. One can tango ever stopped there; the town is trapped for ever like an insect in amber.

Arkansas is off the beaten track but not to be ignored for that. Its small hillbilly communities of the north are friendly and interesting. Mountain Home, by vast Bull Shoals Lake is particularly recommended.

The capital of Georgia, Atlanta, is very different from the one which was burnt down in the Civil War. Famed for its exciting modern architecture and parks, its main drawback is a repu-

tation as one of the most violent cities in America.

Biloxi and Gulfport in Mississippi are two resorts on the Gulf of Mexico which offer beach and sea facilities. The NASA National Space Technology Laboratories at Picayune has interesting tours but by appointment only. Write to NASA, NSTL Public Affairs Office, Bay Street, St Louis, Missouri 39529.

The capital of Kentucky, Louisville, sees the Kentucky Derby run each spring and boat trips are available on the Ohio River on the Belle of Louisville.

In Harrodsburg, there is a reproduction of the first permanent English settlement west of the Allegheny Mountains in the Old Fort Harrod State Park. Horse lovers should visit Lexington where several fine racing stud farms admit visitors.

St Louis, like the rest of Missouri, can hardly make up its mind whether it is in the South or mid-West. Its famous memorial arch, a 630ft hollow curve on the banks of the Mississippi, stands over a museum relating the history of the colonization of the West. Most American museums are good and this is one of the best. Hannibal, north of the city, is the birthplace of Mark Twain and, though somewhat commercialized, well worth a visit.

Alabama has its own Space and Rocket Centre at Huntsville, the Russell Cave National Monument, an ancient Indian habitation, and a number of good parks, notably Big Spring International Park, where John Hunt founded Huntsville in 1805. Mobile has its own Mardi Gras, but it does not compare with New

continued on page VII



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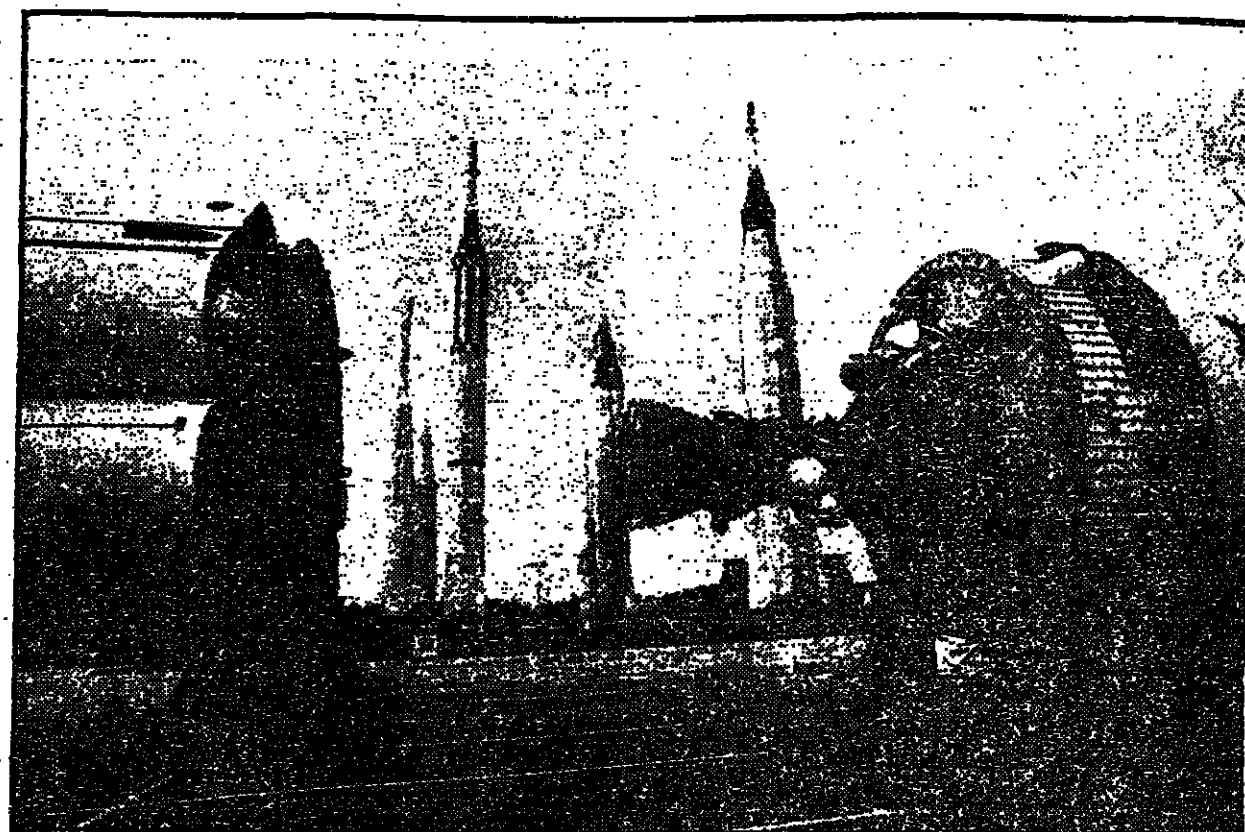
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## TRAVEL IN AMERICA

British travel agents are vying by far the most enjoy-ment (no jet lag, for example) is to take Concorde to New York and change to one of the many American airlines we direct flights to airports in Florida. Some people fly to New York or Washington for a few days then take a slow and long drive south. Savannah in Georgia is certainly worth a short visit, and just near by is South Carolina's Hilton Head Island with good beaches and excellent sports facilities—including the Rod Layer School of Tennis. There is little to occupy or attract the tourist in northern Florida. The state capital of Tallahassee is one of the most boring and least attractive cities in the southern states of America. Jacksonville on the east coast is a bustling commercial centre of negligible interest to tourists. South of Jacksonville is the Kennedy Space Center and Cape Canaveral air force station where the first American manned flights into space started 20 years ago and where the space shuttle programme is slowly moving ahead. Rockets go up every now and again and if you are anywhere in the United States you can make a free telephone call to 800-432-2153 to obtain detailed information. There are interesting tours for visitors to the space centre. Based at Orlando, it is easy to drive to and from the centre in a day, and I think this is preferable to spending a night there. Orlando, which has an efficient airport, is a bustling and expanding city and is the home of the world's largest fun fair, Disney World. It was opened in 1971 at a cost of \$400m, is still expanding. The huge park grounds, with hotels and golf courses and shops of all kinds, contain many of the things—except for beaches—which one would desire on a holiday. There is a tremendous whirl of activity about much of Disney World, and the costs of the fun fair rides and other attractions can mount up swiftly. Small children can be scared by some of the cartoon characters brought to life in this unreal setting. Still, a lot of fun can be had there for a few days, and most of the hotels are good. One ought not to stay in one place in Florida, where nothing could be easier than to rent a car. A widely accepted credit card, such as Visa or American Express is important for renting a car in the United States. Most of the rival companies offer unlimited mileage in Florida, with special rates for renting for at least a week. Advance booking helps. From Orlando the choice is a difficult one. To the west lies Tampa and en route one passes through Lakeland, the centre of the orange and grapefruit groves. Tampa itself is a rather miserable port city but close by, near Clearwater and St Petersburg, are some fine holiday resorts. I would go further south—at least as far as Sarasota. Sarasota is a pleasant city. It has wonderful white sand beaches with million of beautiful shells, some of the most splendid shops on the west coast of Florida and some excellent restaurants—including one at the superb Ringling Museum, which is celebrating its fifth anniversary this year. The Ringling brothers were the creators of the biggest American circus. They made a fortune, and they spent it on their Sarasota home. The centrepiece of the Ringling estate is a huge copy of a Florentine villa which houses an astonishing art collection—El Greco, Rembrandt, Cranach, Poussin, Velasquez, and a room full of Rubens. Next door is the Ringling mansion, with room upon room of European antiques, and in the park there is a small eighteenth century Venetian theatre which was brought back by brick from Italy in 1949. And no child will be bored by the circus museum which the Ringlings built on the estate. South of Sarasota is Sanibel Island, with beautiful beaches, and motels and hotels of all prices. Near by is Fort Myers. This is where Thomas Edison lived for years, and his home and the museum with all his inventions is worth a visit. Still further south there is sedate and refined Naples, where, incidentally, a fine meal is to be had at the Continental restaurant. Naples is close to Marco Island. If you are prosperous, and enjoy golf, tennis and swimming, then the Marco Beach hotel, which is well run by the Marriott Organization, is a place to note. I think the Boca Raton hotel on the east coast is preferable, although the Marco's beach is better. One can fly direct from Miami to Marco Island. Instead of turning west from Orlando, you could drive east and down the long straight highway to Palm Beach, the poshest tourist resort in Florida. This is where millionaires have homes and John Kennedy had a retreat, and where the prices in shops and along Worth Avenue are so outrageous that one has the feeling that some bizarre joke is being played. The lavishness of Palm Beach puts this resort above all its Florida rivals, and the Breakers hotel, with its pomp and golf courses and big meals and sometimes poor service is a unique institution. I find the place awful, but many people twice my age find it delightful. The Holiday Inns and Howard Johnson on South Ocean Boulevard are good value, and an outstanding meal can be enjoyed in this part of town at the Monaghan restaurant. South of Palm Beach there is one holiday resort after another—including Boca Raton, where the prime attraction is the Resort Hotel—and before long one has arrived in Miami. The large hotels of Hialeah and Hollywood and Miami Beach leave me cold. They seem overpriced in the main and largely devoted to catering to a loud and unappealing sort of tourist—particularly the most famous of them all, the newly renovated Fontainebleau Hilton. You can get to the Florida Keys by driving due south from Miami or, if you happen to be in Naples, by driving directly across the state through some rather disappointing parts of the big Everglades National Park. In Key Largo a lot of fun can be had by jumping aboard the MV Discovery for a tour of coral reefs, so long as it is a calm day. The day I went, the seas proved too choppy for most of the tourists. Still further south, in Islamorada, there is one of those excellent small hotels which one does not find in most package tours or tourist guides but which happens to be one of the nicest places to stay. This one is especially good, if you can get a room overlooking the Atlantic. The Cheeca Lodge is worth its high prices for a night or two, and staying there breaks up the long drive from Miami to Key West. The restaurant at the lodge left much to be desired, but there are some excellent and inexpensive fish restaurants near by. From there it is straight south to Key West—home of Hemingway, the Casa Marina hotel, good food, lively bars, fishing, beaches and high temperatures. There are lots of good places to stay, but the Casa Marina, once a private home and only recently renovated on a massive scale, is without doubt my favourite. It is just 90 miles to Cuba from Key West in the sunshine, and it is a long way from the awful bustle and the multi-storey buildings of Miami Beach. There is a great deal to do in Florida, and if the thought of spending too much time on land is too dreadful to contemplate, there are a couple of good alternatives. One is to catch one of the

Gateways: Miami, Tampa...

## Plan well to avoid 'merchants of vulgarity'



Exhibits at John F. Kennedy Space Center, where "rockets go up every now and then".

multitudes of cruise ships in Miami and sail to the Caribbean. Or you can simply charter a boat for six people, and a captain too if you are inexperienced. In many of the ports from Palm Beach south and still down the coast at a cost per person a day of as little as \$50, including food.

Frank Vogl

...Washington, Philadelphia...

## Region where history is part of the allure

Jamestown, Virginia, where in 1607 a small group of settlers overcame tremendous hardships to found the first permanent English settlement in the New World is Independence Hall in Philadelphia, where with a stroke of a quill a group of patriots signed a new nation into being; the sandy slopes of Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, where two brothers named Wright successfully tested man's first flying machine—these are just a few of the attractions that annually draw thousands of tourists to the mid-Atlantic region of the United States. Although historic locations dominate the area, which extends from the city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, south to the city of Charleston, South Carolina, and includes the states of Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, North and South Carolina, as well as the nation's capital, Washington, DC, history is just part of the region's allure. Recreational areas abound. For the tourist who longs to spend days lolling in the sun, the region offers a variety of beaches, from the popular resorts of Virginia Beach and Ocean City to more remote undeveloped islands and peninsulas of North Carolina's outer banks. And for those who prefer camping sites and hiking trails, the Blue Ridge and the Allegheny mountains ranges couple breathtaking views with cool mountain greenery to offer a respite from the summer heat. Day or night, visitors will find a wide variety of entertainment in the metropolitan areas, from first-class museums and modern art galleries to excellent national symphony orchestras and trendy jazz and rock clubs. Many top-name plays and musical comedies stop in Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington, before settling in on Broadway, and resident theatres abound in cities throughout the area. Fine ethnic restaurants are a metropolitan staple, and one cannot visit the area without sampling the mouth-watering seafood which is an Atlantic Coast speciality. There are three international airports serving the mid-Atlantic region. Philadelphia International airport is located about six miles south of the city, and the least expensive transport from the airport is the Southeastern Pennsylvania (SEPTA) airport express bus, which runs daily from 6 am to 10.30 pm and costs \$1.50 for a one-way trip. Dulles airport in Chantilly, Virginia, lies 25 miles west of Washington, and a massed taxi from the airport to the nation's capital costs a minimum of \$25. However, Greyhound Bus Lines provides a service into Washington for \$4.25. Baltimore-Washington International airport is located 10 miles south of Baltimore

and 34 miles north-east of Washington. Taxis, limousines and public buses are available for the short trip into Baltimore; and the limousine service into Washington is a bargain at \$5. Transport within the mid-Atlantic region is varied. National Airlines flies to most of the region's state capitals and Piedmont Airlines provides the most extensive service. Although airline fares are generally high, super saver fares offered by airlines on Sunday tickets can save the traveller money. On a Piedmont Airlines flight between Washington's National Airport and Charleston, South Carolina, the regular round-trip fare of \$214 is cut to \$118 if one books seven days in advance and stays overnight on Friday in Charleston. If you plan short trips to outlying areas or interstate travel, Hertz, Avis and National car rental agencies are located throughout the area. Most big cities and towns in the mid-Atlantic region have hotel/motel chains such as Holiday Inn, Travel Lodge, Ramada Inn, and Quality Inn. Prices extend from \$30 a night in remote locations to more than twice that amount at popular resorts. Summer days in the mid-Atlantic region are typically hot and humid, particularly in Washington where temperatures range from the high 70s to the high 90s. Light, airy clothing is recommended, along with an umbrella to cope with the unexpected thunderstorm. As befits a city which witnessed the birth of a nation, Philadelphia is filled with historic landmarks. A 25 cent ride on the city-centre loop bus takes you to Independence National Historical Park which includes a number of historic sights and the cobblestone streets. On Market Street is Graff House, where Thomas Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence, the Liberty Bell pavilion and Franklin Court, the site of Benjamin Franklin's home. One block south is Independence Hall, where the constitutional convention met. The Visitor Centre at Chestnut and Third streets provides information on walking tours and the cultural loop bus runs daily from Independence Hall. Many fine hotels are to be found in the heart of the city's historic area, with room rates ranging from \$35 to \$60 a night, and ethnic restaurants are scattered throughout Philadelphia. Within a four-hour drive south of Philadelphia, lie both Baltimore, Maryland, and Washington DC. Among Baltimore's many attractions is the inner harbour area, plied by the Baltimore Patriot (adults \$4 and children \$2).

Literature lovers can tour Edgar Allan Poe's home at 203 Amity Street, and visit the writer's grave in Westminster churchyard at Fayette and Green streets. A convenient means of touring Washington, DC, is on the Metro underground system. For a basic fare of 60 cents, you can stop at most of Washington's major tourist attractions: the Capitol Building, where you can observe Congress at work from the visitors' gallery; the Smithsonian Institution, with its many art, science and history museums; and Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia, site of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and the graves of the president Kennedy and his brother, Senator Robert Kennedy. Tourmobiles run every half hour from 9 am to 6.30 pm. They pass the 555-ft Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial, and the Jefferson Memorial. A full-day pass costs \$5 and riders can disembark at any stop and reboard at their leisure. And for a higher fee, a visit to Mount Vernon, Virginia, estate of George Washington, is included. Every United States president except for Washington, has lived at the White House, which is open for touring from Tuesday to Saturday inclusive, between 10 am and 12.45 pm. Free tickets are available between 9 am and noon at the booth on the Ellipse, the grassy space to the south of the White House. Hotel rates are high in Washington but moderately-priced accommodations can be found in the outlying Virginia suburbs of Arlington and Alexandria, where single rooms average about \$50 a night. Restaurants are plentiful and extend from moderately-priced lunches available in government buildings to fine dining in Georgetown, located in Upper North-west Washington. Georgetown visitors can shop in fancy boutiques, lunch at outdoor cafes, or spend a night on the town listening to jazz at the Blues Alley or rock at the Cellar Door. Although a hired car is not necessary for touring Washington, there are many worthwhile sights within a few hours' drive, such as Skyline Drive, which begins in Fawn Royal, Virginia, runs 105 miles south along the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains, and offers spectacular views from altitudes of up to 3,680 ft. North of Fawn Royal is Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, with its landmarks and artefacts from the Civil War and the War of 1812. And the three-hour drive south to Charlottesville, Virginia, is well worth the trip for a tour of Monticello, the magnificent eighteenth-century estate of Thomas Jefferson. In Richmond, the capital of Virginia, one can tour the Southern White House and the Museum for the Confederacy. Beautifully

restored homes from the period, such as the Dooley Mansion, with its splendid Italian and Japanese gardens, can also be toured for a nominal fee. Accommodation in Richmond is plentiful and moderately priced, from \$25 to \$35 for a single room, and the city is located near many popular southern Virginia attractions, such as King's Dominion, an enormous theme amusement park and the famous Atlantic coastal beach resort of Virginia Beach. West Virginia's Allegheny Mountains feature some of the finest state parks and natural wilderness areas in the eastern half of the United States. The Monongahela National Forest, which combines developed recreational areas with untouched wilderness, and the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area, with its magnificent panoramas from atop the highest peak in the state, are just two of the many areas offering visitors hunting, fishing, camping and hiking. North Carolina features its own famous mountain range: the Great Smoky Mountains located within the Great Smoky Mountains National Park on the eastern border of the state. Visitors can take self-conducted tours of the area with the help of a rented car tour tape, available for \$8.5 at the Museum of the Cherokee Indian in the town of Cherokee near by. An outstanding North Carolina attraction is the 120-mile stretch of Atlantic coast islands and peninsulas known as the Outer Banks. There, one can enjoy both undeveloped beaches, such as the Cape Hatteras National Seashore, and popular beach resorts, like Nags Head. Hotel accommodation ranges from \$25 to \$35 a night in the town of Buxton, near Cape Hatteras, to \$40 to \$50 for the same at Nags Head. Popular beach resorts stretch along the entire Atlantic coastline of South Carolina, from Myrtle Beach to Hilton Head Island. There is a large selection of ocean-front accommodation at Myrtle Beach, with prices ranging from \$30 to \$60 or more a night and tourists can enjoy golf, tennis and the amusement parks nearby. Hilton Head Island, four hours to the south, is a self-contained recreational paradise featuring seven major resort areas with golf, tennis and horseback riding. Although there is a wide range of accommodation on the island, prices run high, and staying overnight two hours to the north, in Charleston, South Carolina, provides more economical lodging, in one of the most charming colonial cities on the eastern seaboard.

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... New York, Boston

## It's best on foot for the sights and sounds of the city

Most international flights to New York arrive at John F. Kennedy international airport, though the metropolitan area is serviced by several international and La Guardia, the latter primarily for domestic flights. Once on the ground you can reach the city by taxi for \$20 or more, depending on your destination, or through a number of less expensive alternatives.

The JFK "train to the plane" is a combination of bus and subway that makes eight stops in Manhattan and Brooklyn. The fare is \$4 and trains run every 20 minutes. There is also a bus service to the East Side terminal, 37th Street and First Avenue, leaving every 20 minutes (fare \$5). Car rental is available, but more of a hindrance if your visit is confined to Manhattan. Parking is expensive and traffic police are vigilant. The towing fee for illegally-parked vehicles is \$90.

Hotel room rates in New York City range from the more modest (with double rooms costing from \$40 to \$60 a night) at the Empire, 63rd and Broadway; the Pickwick Arms, East 51st Street and the Ansonia, Broadway, up to \$70 to \$80 a night for the same accommodation at the Gotham, Fifth Avenue, the Algonquin, West 44th Street and The Warwick, West 54th. As in London, reservations are suggested.

Regardless of the accommodation, visitors to the city can expect to spend little time in their hotel rooms. The sights and sounds of the city are a worldwide attraction, and the summer months are particularly attractive.

Among the cultural delights, especially since they

are free, are performances of Shakespeare in Central Park, concerts (in all five boroughs) of the Metropolitan Opera and the New York Philharmonic, the Newport Jazz Festival, and the Rockefeller Center special noon-time and evening programmes in the city's parks and plaza.

Broadway, "the Great White Way" of theatre, is having another successful year with shows such as "42nd Street" and "Evita". Off-Broadway offers Joseph Papp's Shakespeare Festival, with five, six and even seven shows running in Lafayette Street. For the budget-minded, half-price theatre tickets are sold on the day of the performance at the "TKTS" booth in Times Square at 47th Street.

Also available are "two-fers" that can be exchanged at box offices for reduced price tickets. "Two-fers" are also available at the New York Visitor Bureau, at Columbus Circle, along with detailed information on transport, hotels, dining, sightseeing, nightlife, theatre and a full, updated list of special events.

Though public transport is plentiful (bus, subway, taxi), the dedicated visitor to New York should explore as much as possible by foot. Manhattan is easy to move about in, with all streets and dissecting avenues sequentially numbered, and each neighbourhood offers its own special atmosphere. There is Wall Street, home of business and finance and the great stock exchanges; Soho, with its art galleries, restaurants and residential lofts; Chinatown, Little Italy; and Greenwich Village with its European-like side streets and nineteenth-century brownstones.

For the broader view, the panorama from the top of the World Trade Center, from where you can see the hills of New Jersey, is breathtaking. The Empire State Building, long a symbol of the city, could not be missed and offers its own magnificent view over Central Park. And there is the Statue of Liberty, not only for its significance but a marvellous sight of the New York harbour. At night the River Café, below the Brooklyn Bridge, offers one of the best views of the Manhattan skyline. It is expensive and advance booking is a must. Or you might like to stop for a drink at the Tavern on the Green, 49th Street and First Avenue, for a view of the United Nations and some of the city's most opulent blocks of flats.

Back on the ground, an afternoon ride in a horse-drawn cab through Central Park is always enjoyable, followed perhaps by tea at the Palm Court of the Plaza Hotel, 59th and Fifth Avenue. From there, it is an easy walk to Fifth Avenue and the city's most expensive and exclusive shopping area. Bargain hunters, on the other hand, should try Orchard Street on the Lower East Side, where designer clothes, leather bags and shoes and linens are half the price of the Fifth Avenue shops.

If you are in New York to look rather than to buy, there is a museum for every art medium in the city. The International Center of Photography, 96th and Fifth Avenue, for instance, has floors of photographs by new as well as established photographers. The Hayden Planetarium, part of the Museum of Natural History, features "Las Vegas", a sound-and-light show using laser beams, and there is the Metropolitan Museum of Art, one of the finest in the world, as well as the Guggenheim, the Whitney Museum and the Museum of Modern Art.

Stamina and purse permitting, nightfall brings yet further adventures for the visitor, with a wealth of supper clubs, nightclubs and dancing.

Using Manhattan as a base, a delightful day trip could take you up the Hudson Valley, where history and beauty merge, and magnificent mansions abound. Among these are the Van Cortlandt Manor in Croton-on-Hudson, dating from 1688; Lyndhurst, on the Hudson side of Tarrytown, which with its currets and towers is a graceful Gothic revival building surrounded by meticulously landscaped grounds; or the Vanderbilt mansions which share Hyde Park with the Franklin Delano Roosevelt home. For information on hotels contact the Hudson River Valley

Association, Ferris Lane, Poughkeepsie.

The Catskills are perhaps the most famous holiday retreat for New Yorkers, with 2,000 square miles of mountains, hiking and bicycle trails, golf courses, swimming pools, country stores and camp sites.

Then there is Adirondack Park, over six million acres, with more than a third composed of unspoiled wilderness. This site of the 1930 winter Olympics offers summer hiking, swimming and spectacular foliage. It is a three and a half hour drive from Manhattan, with accommodation available in rustic lodges near the many campsites in the park and mountains.

The Finger Lakes are perhaps most noted as the home of Niagara Falls, one of the biggest tourist attractions in the United States. The view of the falls is spectacular, with rolling waters that plunge 160 ft. The lakes are located in 70 acres of park and there are many motels, hotel and camp sites. Contact the Niagara Falls Convention and Visitors Bureau.

A two-and-a-half-hour bus ride will get you to Atlantic City, New Jersey. Buses leave from the Port Authority building between 40th and 41st Streets on Eighth Avenue in New York (cost \$16).

It has the east coast's newest, and indeed only, gambling resort. Gambling was legalized there in 1976 and three large, modern casinos offer a full range of gambling and entertainment delights. The area also abounds in excellent beaches including Wildwood, still has its amusement piers, and Cape May, still preserving Victorian-period architecture, including more than 500 buildings with decorated mouldings. The Mainstay Inn, built in 1872, still has its original furnishings and is only one block from the ocean.

For most Americans, Boston is the most English city in the United States. The accent is closer to English with its broad vowel sounds (listen to Senator Kennedy say "ask" with a broad A). Beacon Hill has the eighteenth-century elegance of Chelsea. Harvard is the most famous university in the United States, with the tranquility of Oxford or Cambridge.

Recently the civilized image has eroded. Boston has become better-known for its racial tension over the school busing issue, but it still holds its reputation as the intellectual heart of America, the city of Harvard, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, of John Kennedy Galbraith, and a long liberal tradition.

From Logan airport visitors can take a shuttle bus to the subway line which connects with all points at

Government Centre. Buses leave every 10 minutes. Boston is one of the most beautiful American cities, and again is best seen on foot. Every visitor should take the Freedom Trail, a three-hour walk with exhibits from the fight for independence.

Go to the Quincy Market in the centre of Boston, where all the old warehouses have been refurbished. Vendors sell food, and there are outdoor cafes where you can sit and enjoy the crowds. The New England aquarium, with one of the world's largest collections of sharks, is near by. The Hancock Tower in Copley Plaza is one of the finest modern buildings in the United States and was designed by I. M. Pei, America's most famous architect. Encased in reflecting glass, its only fault is that the glass occasionally drops out, revealing the street hundreds of feet below.

One of the city's finest hotels is the Copley Plaza, with a bar that features well-known jazz musicians. Double rooms range from \$80 to \$100. The Boston Park Plaza, centrally located on Arlington Street, has more than 800 rooms with rates from \$65 to \$80.

On Sundays take in Dunfry's Park House, within walking distance of the Freedom Trail. For fresh seafood there is Anthony's Pier Four, located on the harbour, with a waterfront deck where you can have drinks and enjoy large portions of seafood.

Rhode Island is the smallest state in New England and has Newport, the boating centre, on its Atlantic coast. The state was the playground for America's wealthiest class in the late nineteenth century, and its huge mansions are now open to the public for tours. Historic Newport is easily viewed by foot: the Newport harbour acts as host to the America's Cup trials, and is the docking port for many yachting events. For information on hotels and sightseeing in Newport contact Newport Chamber of Commerce, 10 America's Cup Avenue, Newport, Rhode Island.

Vermont is best known for its autumn foliage and for downhill and cross-country skiing. Springtime is the period for sugaring-off, when the sap is tapped from maple trees and boiled down to make maple syrup. There are more than 40 cross-country and downhill skiing resorts, including the well-known resort of Stowe. Stowe has two mountains with trails, which are accessible by car, train or aircraft from New York. Stowe has accommodation from \$17 to \$200 a night. Call the Stowe Area Association for further information.

Therese Stanton

## Slow-moving 'nation' retains own identity

continued from page V

Orleans's version. Montgomery is the site of the first White House of the Confederacy, which now houses relics of the Civil War and Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy.

The South once had a distinctive culinary tradition, but it is now largely disappearing. Grits, something like semolina, still appears on every breakfast table and, after the initial shock, is quite palatable with grilled bacon. The other remaining staple, Southern dish is catfish and hush puppies, the latter a spiced, deep-fried dough. Buy it outside a tourist area and it will cost you \$2. Most Southern restaurants offer a predictable variety of steak, basic French dishes, and seafood, bringing the price of an average meal with wine to about \$25 for two in a better-class establishment. Mexican restaurants are becoming more popular.

Memphis boasts two splendid ribs and beer restaurants, Blues Alley, where a 79-year-old former burlesque singer, Ma Rainey, and an exceptional jazz band entertain nightly, and Charley Vergos's Rendezvous. Expect to pay about \$8 a head with beer.

New Orleans is the home of creole, a cross between French and Caribbean cuisine. Stock dishes include red beans and rice, and gumbo, a kind of seafood stew. Several bars offer an oyster happy hour when the king of molluscs can be downed for 10 cents a time, and with Guinness.

Missouri during the summer is like a good English summer, with plenty of sun and temperatures rise as one moves farther south. New Orleans, situated as it is on the Gulf of Mexico, can become unbearably humid and reach the 90s. Nights everywhere are cooler, low 60s in the south, 70s in the north, and enlivened by the insect choruses one has come to expect of the South.

A motoring holiday would take, at the minimum, two

weeks. The cost of a medium-sized saloon for that period would start at about \$380. Never hire a car at an American airport. Rates can be up to 25 per cent higher than the car firm will charge for the same car a mile or so away at their town office.

One disadvantage of travelling by hire car is that the Americans, in the South at least, have yet to introduce a satisfactory form of one-way car hire. One-way hire is available from the larger companies such as Avis but only at a ridiculous surcharge. Most visitors will choose to take a circular route through the South, beginning and ending at their place of entry.

From Atlanta, for instance, a natural circular route would be south through Alabama to New Orleans, then north to Memphis and east through Nashville, Knoxville and the Great Smoky Mountains back to Atlanta, a total of about 1,400 miles, most of it on interstate.

From St Louis, a two-week motoring holiday might take in southern Missouri and the Ozarks, northern Arkansas, Memphis, Nashville, the Smokies, returning through Kentucky.

Those who do not wish to drive can make use of an extensive and fast Greyhound bus system and domestic airline network. Both offer special tickets for tourists which offer unlimited travel for up to a month. Prices vary, in the case of airlines, almost monthly. The most extensive domestic air network in the South is run by Delta, which has a number of bargain tickets for British visitors. They are, unfortunately, restricted to those entering America by Delta into Atlanta. Other companies do not have such restrictions but have a less comprehensive service in the South. The only way of sorting out this tangle is probably by contacting the offices of the individual airlines personally.

Hotel prices vary wildly according to location. Those travelling on a tight budget should head for the out-of-town motel where rooms can

be had for as little as \$12 a night for a double room. Advance booking is not usually necessary, simply follow the directions signposted at regular intervals on the highway.

The middle range of accommodation is catered for by the large hotel chains such as Holiday Inn, Sheraton, and Best Western with properties spreading across the whole of the South. There is little to differentiate between them.

Prices start at about \$30 a night for a double room in rural locations; rising to more than \$70 in cities. The most expensive hotel rooms in the South are in New Orleans where a double in a decent hotel on the French Quarter will cost at least \$80 a night. Chateau Le Morne, an exceptionally good hotel, run by Holiday Inn on the edge of the Quarter, offers first-class accommodation for about this price.

In New Orleans, Memphis, Atlanta, and St Louis, it is essential to book rooms in advance if you wish to stay with one of the large chains. All these cities are busy convention centres and while rooms are probably available most of the time, there are bound to be travellers who choose to visit them during some get-together and find there is not a spare bed in town.

Luxury hotels are really available only in the major cities and start at about \$100 a night. Many are now owned by the large chains and the standard of accommodation is usually as high as will be found in most parts of the world. One local chain worth considering in the St Louis area is Breckenridge where the more expensive rooms, in the \$75 a night category, are exceptionally comfortable.

Package holidays to New Orleans are coming on to the market and will increase in number with British Airways' new route in the spring. You will probably want to travel out of the city rather than spend a whole two weeks there, however, so budget accordingly.

David Hewson

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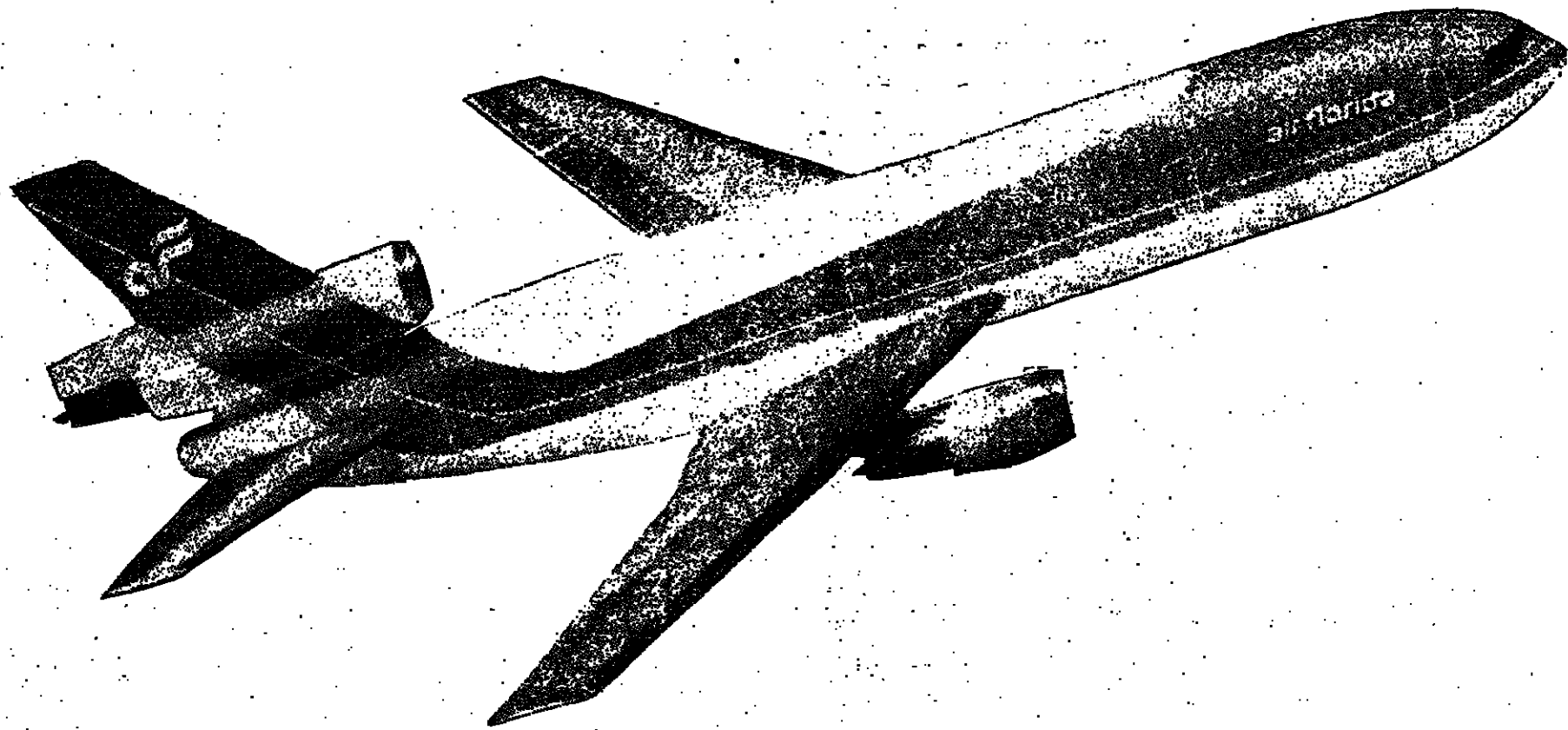
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